

# The Flat Hat

The Student Newspaper of the College of William and Mary since 1911

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FLATHATNEWS.COM

## SA to hear appeals on \$582,900 budget

*Around 150 organizations reveive funding through student fees, groups have through today to submit appeals*

By ANGELA COTA  
FLAT HAT STAFF WRITER

The Finance and Budget Committee of the Student Assembly Senate will hear appeals on its student activities budget this weekend. A total of \$582,900 is estimated to be allotted, based on a projected student body of 6,700 and about 150 organizations.

Appeals began yesterday and will continue today from 4 to 7 p.m. The committee will also meet Sunday to begin deliberation of the appeals.

By Wednesday, 15 out of about 150 possible organizations had submitted appeals. "I would say that about 20-25 groups appeal on average; I suspect we will get up to that amount," Sen. and Senate Finance Committee Chairman Matt Beato, a sophomore, said. "The SA budgeting process is interesting because many groups follow one of two budgeting strategies, or some combination of both. They go for the 'shoot for the moon' strategy, where organizations may submit extremely large bud-

gets, hoping that they will receive a higher percentage of funding, even though they may not need all of it. Or they use the 'just what we need' strategy, hoping that submitting a realistic budget will be looked kindly upon. It is difficult to know which is which sometimes, and the appeals process helps us figure this out," Beato added.

The budget process began in December. SA President Ryan Scofield and Secretary of Finance Bradley Justus, both seniors, submitted a call for members of the Executive Appropriations Committee, which consists of a freshman, sophomore, junior, senior and two graduate students. They were named by Scofield and Justus over winter break. They can all vote, and Justus serves as chairman, though he can vote only in the case of a tie.

During January, the Committee held hearings, met with groups to talk about their budgets and deliberated. The Committee then sent their budget to Scofield, who is able to make changes. He sent the

See BUDGET page 5

### HERE HE IS, MR. W&M



ALEX HAGLUND • THE FLAT HAT  
Senior Scott Brown won the title crown at the seventh annual Mr. William and Mary pageant Wednesday night. He defeated several campus celebrities, such as Student Assembly President Ryan Scofield.

## 24 elected to Honor Council

By ALEX GUILLÉN  
THE FLAT HAT

Yesterday, students voted for next year's 24 members of the Undergraduate Honor Council. The Honor Council is comprised of eight members from each of the Classes of 2008, 2009 and 2010.

Students were allowed to vote for up to eight candidates per class, regardless of their own class, and the eight candidates with the most votes in each class were elected to the council.

From the 12 candidates of the Class of 2008, those elected to the council are Joseph Andrews, Sophie Broaddus, Dexter Bush-Scott, Judd Kennedy, Roshan Patel, Natalie Ronollo, Ayesha Shaukat and Matt Taylor.

From the 20 candidates of the Class of 2009, those elected to the Council are Katie Adams, Rob Cottrell, Julie Dewberry, Will Eaton, Kyle Kearney, Ashley Poling, Kelley Quinn and Jon Sladky.

From the 28 candidates of the Class of 2010, those elected to the Council are Christine Dang, Michael Castellano, Rory Eaton, Chase Hathaway, Dawson Lindauere, Kristen Pantazes, Bailey Thomson and Alexandra Whitehead.

Elected Honor Council members will be sworn in within two weeks and will then sit concurrently with the present council members for 45 days for training purposes.

The Honor Council conducts hearings and investigations of students accused of violating the Honor Code, a pledge students make upon entering the College. Cases involve accusations of lying, cheating and stealing.

The College's honor code is the oldest in the country.

Voting was conducted over the Student Information Network. Detailed election results are available on sin.wm.edu.

### HONOR COUNCIL

#### CLASS OF 2008

Joseph Andrews  
Sophie Broaddus  
Dexter Bush-Scott  
Judd Kennedy  
Roshan Patel  
Natalie Ronollo  
Ayesha Shaukat  
Matt Taylor

#### CLASS OF 2009

Katie Adams  
Rob Cottrell  
Julie Dewberry  
Will Eaton  
Kyle Kearney  
Ashley Poling  
Kelley Quinn  
Jon Sladky

#### CLASS OF 2010

Christine Dang  
Michael Castellano  
Rory Eaton  
Chase Hathaway  
Dawson Lindauere  
Kristen Pantazes  
Bailey Thomson  
Alexandra Whitehead

## Junior fights for place on Fairfax ballot

*Junior Adam Boltik's campaign for Fairfax County Board of Supervisors stirs debate over \$1,180 registration fee*

By ANDY GARDEN  
FLAT HAT STAFF WRITER

Adam Boltik expected many hurdles when he decided to run for the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, but a \$1,180 registration fee for the Republican primary was not one of them. The high fee forced Boltik, a junior at the College, to consider abandoning his campaign.

Boltik describes himself as a "conservative Republican" on his website, BoltikForSupervisor.com, and believes that Springfield would "benefit from a representative with a youthful vigor and the tenacity required to strike compromises with a Democrat-controlled Board." Unfortunately, Virginia's high primary registration fees effectively prevent him from running.

"You have to pay \$1,200 just because you identify yourself with the party. It needs to be that anyone who wants can step up and run, not who has been saving up the longest," Boltik said.

Ironically, Boltik's difficulties in raising enough money to cover the fee may have bolstered his chances of success. Jan. 18, The Washington Post ran an article describing his situation and frustration with his election efforts. He told The Flat Hat that several groups interested in helping approached him after it was published.

"I've gotten a lot of calls from people saying, 'Hey, you're right,' and willing to put up money. I'm going to go ahead and definitely consider [running]," he said.

While the Post quoted Fairfax County GOP Chairman Eric Lundberg as supporting Boltik's enthusiasm, others, such as incumbent Springfield Supervisor Elaine McConnell, questioned his candidacy's viability.

"I bet everyone will spend \$100,000 or darn close to it. If people can't financially raise \$1,200 for a filing fee, are they going to be able to maintain a campaign?" she said in an interview with the Post.



COURTESY PHOTO • BOLTIKFORSUPERVISOR.COM  
Adam Boltik is considering a run for the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

Boltik disagrees. "I don't see why someone thinks you have to spend that sort of money on any campaign. On a local campaign you can get by just fine relying on friends and donors," he said. "It's ridiculous to think only the rich people can run for office because they have \$100,000 to spend."

Boltik also criticized the entrenched

nature of the county's Republican hierarchy.

"The party structure is real rigid up there," he said. "All of that gets in the way of democracy."

Boltik's primary issues are the high property taxes that he says are forcing those who work in Fairfax County to move farther and farther away from their jobs. Increasing demand for real estate has raised property values and taxes along with them, he said, hurting the county's middle class.

"The amount you have to pay just keeps going up. A lot of people who work in the county can't afford to live in the county they serve," he said.

If his bid to get in the Republican primary is unsuccessful, Boltik may consider running as an independent. "I've actually been contacted by the head of the state Independent Green Party. He's told me that if, I can't get the funds to do it he'd be willing to sponsor me in November," Boltik said.

"The thing about being the independent is you don't have to go through the

See SUPERVISOR page 5

## College's oldest buildings likely built by slaves, lecturer says

By ANGELA COTA  
FLAT HAT STAFF WRITER

The effects of slavery in early America live on in more than the history classes in James Blair Hall. Some of the College's oldest buildings were likely built by slaves, though detailed records are lost.

The Brafferton, President's House and Wren Building and Chapel were likely built using slave labor. However, reliable accounts are sparse, according to Dr. Carl Lounsbury, a lecturer at the College and architectural historian in Colonial Williamsburg.

"There are accounts for the building of the main College building [the Wren] which show payments that went to prominent individuals for

bricks, carpenters' work, shingles and timber, etc," Lounsbury said. "These men, such as Philip Ludwell, were contractors who hired skilled white craftsmen, as well as used their skilled and unskilled black slaves to work on the building in various ways," he said.

Lounsbury said that slaves may have cut timber, dug the foundations of the buildings or hauled materials to the building site. This is based on analogous evidence, Lounsbury said.

No specific names of any slaves survive, just the names of a few white craftsmen hired as carpenters, bricklayers and joiners.

"Just how many slaves did similar skilled jobs is unknown, but it seems

probable that there were some. For example, two of James Blair's servants were hired as carpenters to work on the College building," Lounsbury said.

Less is known about the Brafferton and the President's House, except that Henry Cary Jr. was the contractor for the President's House and the Wren Chapel.

"I presume that Cary had a combination of free and unfree laborers and craftsmen who worked for him. Unfortunately, none of his accounts or business records survives," Lounsbury said.

Despite the lack of detailed records, enough information survives to infer this information.

Many had not considered the is-

sue, though, including Director of Historic Campus Louise Kale.

"Workmen and brick masons were brought over from England, but I haven't seen anything for sure on the use of slaves," she said.

In Oct. 2006, when Brown University's Committee on Slavery and Injustice met, the fact that campus buildings were constructed with slave labor was an important issue. The committee suggested building a memorial, recruiting more minority students, and creating a center to study slavery to atone for the university's 18th century ties to slavery.

Harvard University and Yale University also had ties to slavery, but neither addressed the issue to the same extent as Brown.



JONATHAN SEIDEN • THE FLAT HAT  
The Wren building may have been built using slave labor, a Colonial Williamsburg architectural historian said.



NEWS INSIGHT

The Flat Hat

‘Stabilitas et Fides’

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Corrections

On page 5 of the Feb. 20 issue, Taylor Rubin was incorrectly referred to as Taylor Robin.

The Flat Hat wishes to correct any facts printed incorrectly. Corrections may be submitted by e-mail to the section editor in which the incorrect information was printed. Requests for corrections will be accepted at any time.

Weather

Friday



High 49°  
Low 26°

Saturday



High 51°  
Low 34°

Sunday



High 54°  
Low 42°

Source: www.weather.com

Quotes of the Week

“ My business partners and I are very satisfied with the project. ”

- Kevin Abley, co-owner of the Green Leafe, on the construction of brick sidewalks around the Leafe  
See SIDEWALKS page 3

“ The money wasn’t mine. If I had earned it that would have been a different story. ”

- Conrad Brown, a College groundskeeper, on why he returned a folder he found that contained over \$1,000  
See GOOD SAMARITAN page 4

News in Brief

Baskin-Robbins undergoing repairs, to open March 20

Renovations of the Baskin-Robbins in Merchants Square continue, two and a half months after the Dec. 2006 fire that also affected The Peanut Shop and Blue Talon Bistro. If all goes as planned, the ice cream parlor will reopen in late March.

The successful reopening of The Peanut Shop yesterday is encouraging, Director of Commercial Properties for Merchants Square Association Marian Ashton said. Business at the Blue Talon Bistro will resume March 10, during the College’s spring break. And, “Baskin-Robbins is being renovated as we speak,” Ashton said, adding that construction workers are currently working on the shop’s walls and plumbing.

Ashton attributes the varying reopening dates to the damage done to each location. “Damage was most extensive at Baskin-Robbins,” Ashton said, explaining that the other two suffered mostly smoke and water damage. If construction goes as planned, Baskin-Robbins will reopen March 20.

The cause of the fire may never be known. The only certainty is that the fire started outside, Ashton explained. “If there is a good side to [the fire], it didn’t happen in the middle of summer,” when Baskin-Robbins sees the most business. “Plus, it happened early in the morning so no one got hurt,” Ashton said.

— by Dorothy Park

By the Numbers

41 percent

The percentage of Americans who believe in extra sensory perception, or ESP, according to a June 2005 Gallup poll of 1,002 adults. The proportion is down from 50 percent in 2001.

11 percent

The proportion of college textbooks purchased online, according to a 2006 survey by the Follett Higher Education Group, which runs more than 750 college stores. 19 percent of students surveyed said they had bought at least one book online that year.

\$42.3 million

The estimated cost of both the Integrated Science Center currently under construction and the renovation of Rogers Hall. The project is scheduled to be completed by Jan. 2008.

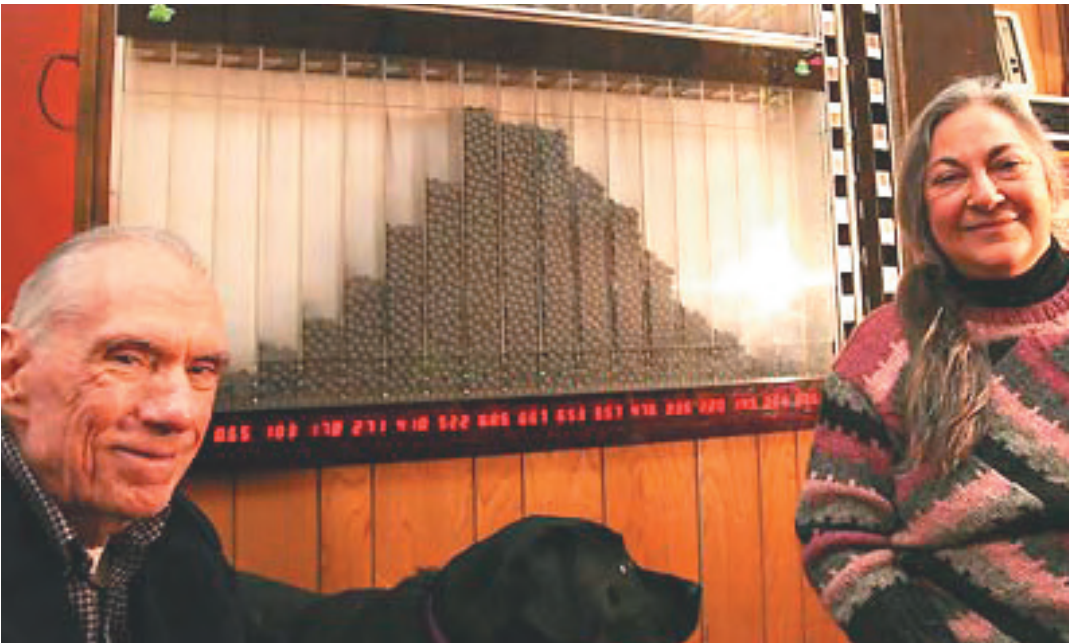
400

The number of U.S. colleges at which Aramark provides dining services, according to the company. Aramark runs the dining halls on campus.

\$582,900

The preliminary Student Assembly budget for the next fiscal year, amounting to slightly over \$100 per undergraduate student.

— by Maxim Lott



COURTESY PHOTO • THE NEW YORK TIMES  
Rober Jahn and Brenda Dunne work in Princeton’s PEAR lab and study telekinesis and ESP.

BEYOND THE BURG  
ESP researcher decides to close lab

By MORGAN FIGA  
FLAT HAT ASSOC. INSIGHT EDITOR

Princeton University announced that the Princeton Engineering Anomalies Research Laboratory will close, according to the New York Times

Since 1979, the PEAR lab has conducted experiments on extra-sensory perception and telekinesis.

“For 28 years, we’ve done what we wanted to, and there’s no reason to stay and generate more of the same data,” Founder Robert G. Jahn said. “If people don’t believe us after all the results we’ve produced, then they never will.”

The lab has been a point of contention at Princeton and between other academics who consider its work to be unscientific. None of Princeton’s 700 professors have aided with its research.

Jahn, who graduated from Princeton in 1951, worked at the university since 1962 and became dean of the engineering school in 1971. He is currently considered to be one of the world’s foremost experts on jet propulsion.

Rather than relying on university or federal funding, the

PEAR lab ran on private donations. The lab has received more than \$10 million over the years, of which the first sizable donation came from James S. McDonnell, founder of the McDonnell Douglas Corporation.

The Times described a typical experiment consisting of a study subject sitting in front of an electronic box. The box flashed random numbers either just below or above 100. The subject was then told to “think high” or “think low” and monitor the display. After repeating this several thousand times, researchers looked to see if there was a correlation between the machine’s output and the subject’s thoughts.

Jahn and the rest of his research team made the conclusion that an individual’s thoughts could alter the machine’s behavior slightly. He found that out of 10,000 flips, two or three were altered.

“We have observed very tiny but repeatable effects indicating that the mind can insert some degree of information into random event generators that makes the information not so random,” Jahn told the Daily Princetonian.

Jahn said that it was a student who inspired him to start the

PEAR lab and that he was surprised by “resistance” of his colleagues to his research.

“Good scientific work without making wide claims should be respected as scholarly work,” he told the paper.

“Jahn sees possibilities where others won’t,” lab manager Brenda Dunne said.

Others, such as Robert Park, a University of Maryland Professor, disagree.

“It’s been an embarrassment to science, and I think an embarrassment for Princeton. Science has a substantial amount of credibility, but this is the kind of thing that squanders it.”

“If [people] want funds for research they have to go through peer review and the system is going to be very skeptical of ideas that are inconsistent with what is already known,” Harriet Zuckerman, senior vice president of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation said.

Jahn’s work has not been extensively peer reviewed since prominent research journals declined to accept papers from PEAR lab.

Princeton made no official comment on the lab closing.

This week in  
Flat Hat history  
1929

At a session of the Senior-Sophomore Tribunal, 100 freshmen received punishment for violation of College rules. The freshman violators were ordered to silent detention in Washington Hall from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. for three days to two weeks, depending on the severity of the violation. The session was held in an attempt to curb open violations of freshman rules. The committee also announced that repeated violations would lead to expulsion.

1965

The College denied reports of planning to admit a total of 1,100 students, far more than usual. Then-President Davis Y. Paschall reported that approximately 750 students would be admitted; 400 men and 350 women. The College admitted 70 more women than originally planned.

1976

A flu epidemic hit the campus. Dr. Richard Cilley of the Student Health Center reported that 300 to 400 students had been treated by the infirmary for the illness. Two of the three doctors serving at the center were also out sick. At the time, the health center had only 18 beds, so only “acutely ill” patients were accepted. Other students were directed to stay in their rooms.

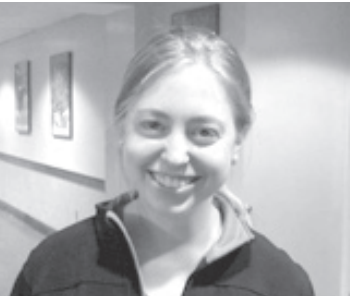
1994

For the first time in the College’s history, the Office of Residence Life announced it was going to start offering a smoke-free residential area, which would be located on the first floor of Bryan Hall. Students who planned to live in Bryan Hall had to sign an agreement to not smoke in their rooms or anywhere in the hall.

— compiled by Morgan Figa

STREET BEAT

How much time do you spend in Swem each week?



I study elsewhere.

Rebecca Lowdon, sophomore



Zero hours.

Ryan Schrader, freshman



Not that much, maybe an hour at most.

Meghan Townes, junior



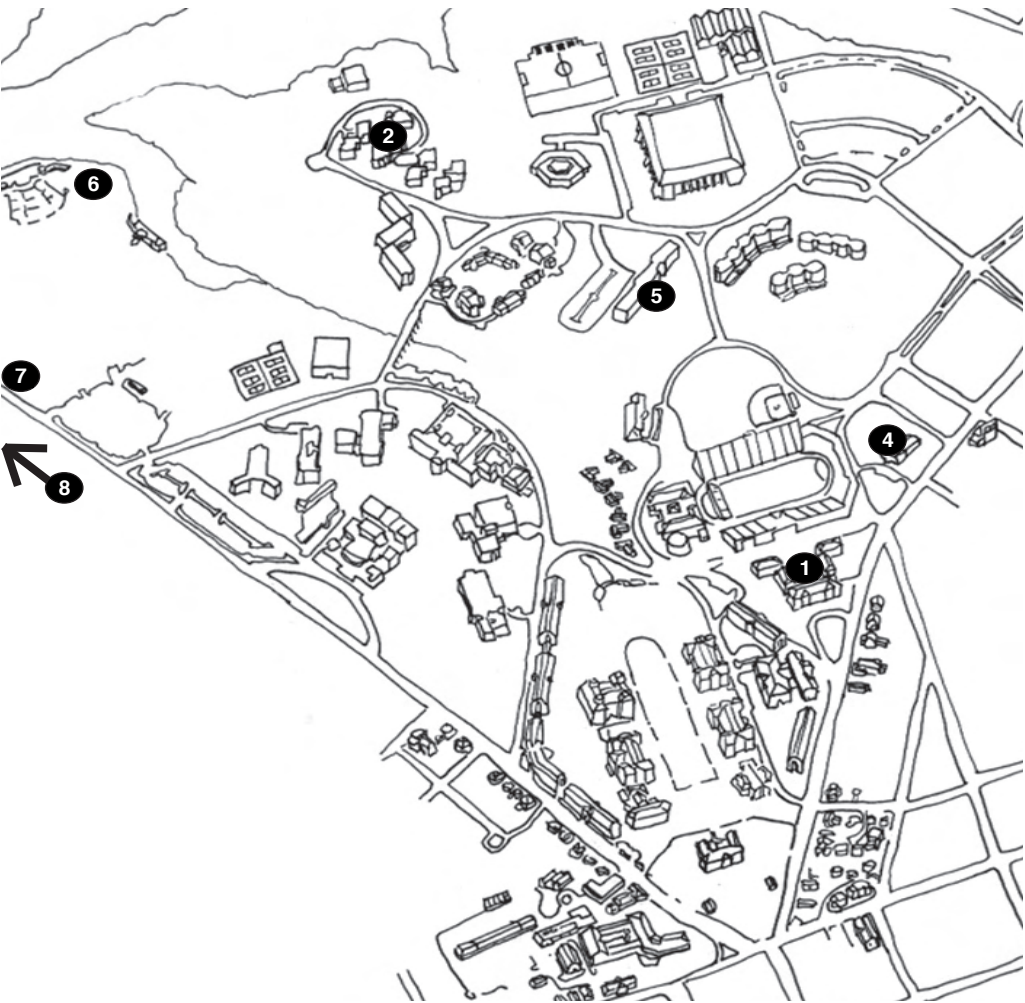
Not as much as I should.

Zenia Sherman, sophomore

— photos and interviews by Julia Schaumburg

CAMPUS POLICE BEAT

Feb. 14 to Feb. 18



**Wednesday, Feb. 14** — A resident adviser at Madison Hall called in to report the theft of food. The estimated value of the food was \$40. **1**

**Thursday, Feb. 15** — A student outside of Spotswood called to report that her bike was missing. The estimated value of the bike was \$100. **2**

**Friday, Feb. 16** — A suspect was arrested by the UC loading docks. The suspect, a Williamsburg resident, was arrested for trespassing. **3**

**Saturday, Feb. 17** — A student found near the Alumni House was charged with alcohol possession. **4**

— A student reported vandalism in the Yates parking lot. Reported damage to the vehicle was \$50. **5**

— A student who parked her car behind the UC reported an item stolen from her car. The reported cost of the hood ornament stolen was \$200. **3**

— A trespass warning was given out to three non-students who were loitering near Matoaka Lake. **6**

— A non-student was arrested under a DUI charge on Jamestown Road and Matoaka Wood. **7**

**Sunday, Feb. 18** — A student at Ludwell reported that someone broke the side window on his vehicle. The investigating officer estimated \$300 damage to the vehicle. **8**

— compiled by Morgan Figa



# New study shows laptop use in class may hurt class performance, GPAs

By Kara Starr and Miles Hilder  
Flat Hat Staff Writers

Wireless internet access on college campuses is providing students a way to sit in class without mental engagement. Students significantly jeopardize their GPAs by using laptops in class, studies show.

A recent study conducted by researchers at Winona State University in Minnesota investigated the habits of students in large seminar classes and noted that many of those who brought their laptops to class did more than just take notes.

81 percent admitted to checking their e-mail and 68 percent had instant messenger programs signed on during class. 25 percent of students used their laptops to play games.

The study found that students' GPAs were 5 percent lower than those of their laptop-free peers, a result of excessive laptop use.

Many professors at the College feel that laptops cause disturbances for students.

"It's distracting for the instructor to see a student leaning over another student's laptop to take a look at something that probably has little to do with your class," Professor Simon Stow of the government department said.

The necessity of laptops is dependent on the nature of the course, according to Stow.

"I should say that I really don't like students using laptops in seminars," he said. "I think people hide behind them and they inhibit discussion, but that may be because of what I teach. If I taught statistics or something, I suppose it would be more acceptable."

Other professors, however, have a more laissez-faire attitude about the presence of laptops in class.

"I think that for students to use laptops makes all kinds of sense," Professor Melvin Ely, a member of the history department, said. "Their doing so doesn't distract me at all — except on the rare occasion when the expression on a student's face suggests that he or she is using the laptop for some purpose unrelated to my class... If I don't have the ability to keep students more interested in my class than they are in whatever entertainment they might find online, then I probably ought to find a different profession."

For students who believe that their laptop activity goes unnoticed, be warned.

"[My opinion of a student who

uses a laptop doesn't change,] unless he or she is unusually ostentatious about it. The loud starting up in the middle of class, for example, can be obnoxious, but that seldom happens," Stow said.

In accordance with Stow's statement, Ely believes that laptop usage rarely affects his classes. When asked if excessive laptop use contributed to weaker classroom discussion or if he observed a correlation between laptop use and lower GPAs, Ely responded in the negative.

Ely defended his support for laptops by maintaining that, when used properly, they can be a useful classroom tool for students.

"I don't see why writing long-hand would be more virtuous or effective than typing into a computer, and the latter is more efficient," he said.

## Classifieds

### Travel

Travel with STS to this year's top 10 Spring Break destinations! Best deals guaranteed! Highest rep commissions. Visit [www.ststravel.com](http://www.ststravel.com) or call 1-800-648-4849. Great group discounts.

Classifieds are FREE for students, and otherwise \$.25/wd./issue and must be pre-paid. Call 757-221-3283 or e-mail [fhads@wm.edu](mailto:fhads@wm.edu) for more info.

### Therapy

Headache? Neck pain? Back pain? Sports injury? Stress? We can help. Visit [www.performancechiropractic.com](http://www.performancechiropractic.com) to see how CHIROPRACTIC, APUCPUNTURE, and MASSAGE help you be your best. For more information, or to schedule an appointment, call Performance Chiropractic at 229-4161. (Ad authorized by Dr. Daniel Shaye, chiropractic physician, W&M 1990).

# Fmr. Muscarelle director's salary raises suspicions

By Alina Todor  
The Flat Hat

Glenn Lowry — the first director of the College's Muscarelle Museum of Art and current director of the Museum of Modern Art in New York City — has raised suspicions after the New York Times revealed that he earned an undisclosed \$5.4 million this year, more than three times his listed \$1.3 million salary.

Lowry, who has been serving as director of MOMA since 1995, is America's highest paid museum official, the Feb. 16 online edition of the Times reported.

From 1995 to 2003, Lowry was also receiving unreported payments from the New York Fine Arts Support Trust, funded mainly by Agnes Gund, the president of the museum, and David Rockefeller, grandson of John D. Rockefeller, Guardian reported Feb. 16.

After investigations into the unreported payments during 2006, the state of New York was satisfied with the museum's disclosure of these payments. According to the Times, the supplemental payments — made by a museum trust fund — were initially given to persuade Lowry to move to New York City with his family.

The Museum of Modern Art reopened in November of 2004 after spending over \$800 million on an expansion project, which was supervised by Lowry. Since its reopening, many critics have complained that the museum now sports a "corporate atmosphere," the Times said.

The recent controversy has not helped the museum's reputation.

The Times article goes on to state that many museum directors often receive benefits that are similar to Lowry's, but those received by Lowry almost double the compensation received by many of his peers.



It's coming....

# SPRING INTO ACTION DAY

Interested in doing a service project on Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, with your friends? There are a ton of projects available around Williamsburg and James City County, including painting local houses (a new joint effort with Housing Partnerships).

Sign your group up for a project in the Campus Center, Room 158!

If you would like to be added to the weekly volunteer listserv, please email Lauren Grainger ([lugrai@wm.edu](mailto:lugrai@wm.edu)).

Hear Ye, Hear Ye!

Application Deadline Extended!

Barbados

Beijing, China

Cadiz, Spain

Cambridge, England

Florence, Italy

Galway, Ireland

Goa, India

Montpellier, France

Morelia, Mexico

Prague, Czech Republic

Siracusa, Italy

St. Petersburg, Russia

Application deadline has been extended to Monday, February 26!

Download your application today and apply:

<http://www.wm.edu/revescenter/>



# One student’s service trip still possible thanks to good samaritan groundskeeper

*Groundskeeper Conrad Brown returned \$1,000 in checks to be used for W&M Global Village Project*

By Rachel Ohm  
The Flat Hat

Saturday, Feb. 10 began as a typical workday for Conrad Brown, a College groundskeeper. However, Brown made an important discovery when a bright pink folder lying beside a dumpster caught his eye.

The folder — which belonged to senior Jessica Chudy — contained just over \$1,000 in cash and checks for the William and Mary Global Village Project. As a leader of an upcoming spring break service trip to Guatemala, Chudy was in charge of the money collected at a fundraiser at Kimball Theater the previous night. She assumes she dropped the folder outside sorority court on her way home from the theater around 1 a.m.

Chudy was devastated when she awoke to find the folder missing. Amidst

frantic searching and phone calls to fellow international service trip leaders, she was relieved to learn that it had been found. She received a call from a co-leader who had been in contact with campus police, where Brown had turned in the missing funds.

“The money wasn’t mine. If I had earned it that would have been a different story,” said Brown, who had initially questioned passers-by in his search for the rightful owner of the folder and its contents. He says thoughts of pocketing the money never crossed his mind.

Brown eventually made his way back to sorority court, where he was graciously greeted by an emotional Chudy.

“At that point I was sobbing; I can’t really express how thankful I am to him for that money,” she said. “The trip costs about \$1,500 a person and we have 15



JONATHAN SEIDEN • THE FLAT HAT  
**Senior Jessica Chudy temporarily lost \$1,000, but it was returned by campus groundskeeper Conrad Brown, who found it lying beside a dumpster.**



COURTESY PHOTO • WILLIAM AND MARY NEWS

people going. This money was one person’s trip.”

To express their gratitude, Chudy and other students involved with global village projects baked a cake for Brown, which he shared with his fellow employees at the facilities management offices.

“Conrad always had a lot of integrity. What he did is not a surprise to anyone here. He’s always been good-natured and done the right thing,” said Brown’s supervisor, John Mattie.

“To actually see the honor code come to life in the student body and all the College’s employees is remarkable,” Chudy said.

# Delis’ sidewalks undergoing renovation

By Maxim Lott  
Flat Hat Insight Editor

Construction of new brick sidewalks outside of the Green Leaf Cafe began earlier this week and is scheduled to be completed by March 15, according to Leafe co-owner Kevin Abley.

Within the next few weeks, construction will be extended to Richmond Road, with brick sidewalks replacing cement ones from the College Delly to Wawa. Richmond Road construction is expected to be done by March 27.

Abley also said that the project would include the expansion of the Leafe’s parking lot and the construction of a commercial building in the empty lot beside Paul’s Deli.

“My business partners and I are very satisfied with the project,” Abley wrote in an e-mail to The Flat Hat. “The improved sidewalks will provide better pe-

destrian access to the Green Leafe, as well as improve the aesthetic of the Scotland Street/Richmond Road corner. Anyone who has parked in our lot knows how perilous that can be, so any improvement to our lot will be a welcomed one.”

“While [we’re] not preparing to celebrate our 400th birthday, we do feel that the Green Leafe Cafe has its own place in Williamsburg history and lore. We are very pleased that Williamsburg’s town fathers have finally begun to recognize that fact,” Abley added, regarding the city’s involvement.

The construction is part of the Braxton Court Area Neighborhood Revitalization Project, a \$1,868,449 initiative started by the city of Williamsburg in 2004. The money ultimately comes from the federal government in the form of a Community Development Block Grant.

The grants are given to communities in order to fund activities benefiting low- and moderate-income

persons, as well as activities that aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight.

The stated goal of the city’s project is to address “preservation of existing housing, homeownership for moderate income families, protecting traditional neighborhoods and maintaining and revitalizing small neighborhood commercial centers.”

As of Aug. 18, 2006, the city had demolished nine structures as part of the project.

A Jan. 10, 2007 memorandum added that two owner-occupied houses had been rehabilitated along with two former rental houses. The report made clear that one house has been sold to a moderate-income family, in line with the project’s goals.

The city had planned to complete the brick sidewalks as well as other improvements such as new streetlights and an upgraded storm sewer by June 2006, but pushed back the completion date to July 2007, according to an Aug. 18 “Final Status Report.”

# SA supports medical amnesty

By Christopher Consolino  
The Flat Hat

Four out of the five bills voted on by the Student Assembly Senate during their Tuesday night meeting passed, including a proposal supporting medical amnesty for students.

The senate also confirmed one of SA President Ryan Scofield’s nominations to fill two vacancies on the Election Commission.

The Safety is Paramount Act — sponsored by Sens. Matt Beato and Zach Pilchen, both sophomores — passed unanimously. The bill provides for a letter authored by Beato and Pilchen to Police Chief Donald Challis encouraging the Campus Police “to practice the basic tenants of Student Affairs’ Medical Amnesty Proposal.”

In the same vein, Sens. Blasi and Morris, both freshmen, presented the Medical Amnesty Clarification Act, which would ask College administrators for a formal clarification of the newly-adopted amnesty policy, according to Blasi.

The Freshman Orientation Act, sponsored by Blasi and Morris, passed by a vote of 12-5 with three abstaining. The bill requests that administrators integrate all extended orientation activities into the Freshman Orientation period before classes begin.

The Omnibus Newsletter Funding Act passed by a vote of 14-0 with six abstaining. The bill is a re-wording of a previously passed bill that provided funding for a quarterly community newsletter meant to update community members on how to become involved with campus activities and events, said Sen. James Evans, a senior. According to the new bill, \$732.93 will be allocated for postage from the Student Assembly Consolidated Reserve Fund, while \$800 will be allocated from the assembly’s Off-Campus Fund for printing costs.

The Integrity of Honor Act, which reminded all candidates for Student Assembly office that they must conduct themselves according to the Honor Code while in office, passed unanimously; the bill was sponsored by Sens. Matt Skibiak,

See SENATE page 5

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# Bush budget increases Pell grants

By ALEXANDRA COCHRANE  
FLAT HAT STAFF WRITER

President George W. Bush released his 2008 budget, which includes raising the Pell Grant to \$4,600 by 2008 and to \$5,400 by 2012. Funding would come partially from the elimination of the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant program and two other aid programs. This announcement came soon after the Democratic-held Congress voted to increase the Pell Grant for 2007.

Supporters say that the SEOG program is ineffective because most of the funds go to private institutions, not to the colleges that enroll a high number of lower-income students.

Some critics disagree with the idea of ending the SEOG program which allocates grants averaging \$770 to 1.3 million students. Opponents believe that an increase in Pell grants would not be enough

to cover the aid lost by eliminating SEOGs. Terry Hartle of the American Council on Education said that even with increased funding for Academic Competitiveness Grants, the total amount of financial aid awards would decrease from 7.5 million to 6.1 million.

“By increasing the size of the Pell grant, needy students are going to have more money,” Robert Archibald, an economics professor at the College, said. “There will probably be students who got a large SEOG who will lose in the exchange, but my bet is that they won’t lose in total because we have to factor in how institutions would react. If students lose some government aid, it is very likely to be replaced by institutional aid.”

The Department of Education counters opposition to the change in funding by pointing out that funding will also come from decreasing lender profits. Additionally, the same students who may

lose aid from SEOGs will benefit from Pell Grant and Academic Competitiveness Grant increases. The department estimates that 9 percent of current SEOG recipients would lose money, and those students would come from a higher income bracket because they do not qualify for Pell Grants.

“When we looked at the numbers, we found that campuses that enroll 70 percent of low-income students only got 40 percent of the SEOG money,” Sara Tucker, under secretary of education, told Insidehighered.com.

The Department of Education has also said that the Pell Program is less costly to operate than the SEOG program by a margin of 250:1.

Archibald said the elimination of SEOG has an important benefit.

“The basic reason is that the simpler the financial aid program is, the more easily it will be understood by the people who might benefit,” he said.

# Senate to consider budget appeals

BUDGET from page 1

budget to the Senate Finance Committee, who are now hearing appeals. In past years, the SA president conducted appeals.

Organizations were able to view their totals in the Student Activities Office to determine whether or not they wanted to pursue an appeal. The committee is currently reviewing the submitted appeals.

Organizations that choose to pursue an appeal are assigned dates and times to present the appeal and also submit in writing why they feel they need additional funding. After Thursday and Friday’s appeals, the senate committee will discuss and rule on the appeals.

Finally, the entire senate will vote on the budget, Scofield will sign or veto it and Vice President for Student Affairs Sam Sadler will present it to the Board of

Visitors for their approval. The budget will probably be final before spring break, Beato said.

Beato, Vice President for Student Activities Mark Constantine and Senate Finance Committee Secretary Walter McClean are also involved in the process; they may watch the proceedings but cannot vote.

“It’s probably fair to say that no organization will be cut at this point, barring some sort of discovery that the appropriation was done for something we can’t fund. It’s probably also fair to say that only organizations that appeal will receive more money,” Beato said.

Funding follows rules set by the SA and the Student Activities Office, as well as Virginia and United States laws, and they must be “viewpoint neutral” according to the Supreme Court, which addressed the issue of student fees in 2000.

# Junior fights for place on Fairfax County ballot

SUPERVISOR from page 1

primary. That’s definitely something I’ll consider,” he added.

The Independent Greens are a fiscally conservative party, perhaps best known in the state for running Gail Parker, a retired Pen-

tagon analyst, in Virginia’s 2006 Senate election.

Whatever happens, Boltik said he isn’t ready to give up yet.

“Say what you want about the chances of winning, but some things are worth trying and some things are worth fighting for.”

# Senate passes 4 bills

SENATE from page 4

a sophomore, and Orlando Watson, a freshman.

Scofield nominated Evans and Class of 2007 Vice President for Advocacy Sean Gillik, a senior, to the Election Commission. The senate confirmed Evans to the commission by a vote of 18-1 with one abstaining.

Evans will also be the technical advisor for the Elections Commission this year. Gillik would replace Tom Kramer, a senior, who graduated in December. Evans

Bill	Pass/Fail	Description
Safety is Paramount Act	Pass	Encourages Campus Police to adopt College’s medical amnesty policy
Freshman Orientation Act	Pass	Asks for extended freshman orientation activities to occur before classes begin
Omnibus Newsletter Funding Act	Pass	Provides a quarterly community newsletter
Integrity of Honor Act	Pass	Reminds SA members that they are bound by the Honor Code
Truthfulness of Honor Act	Fail	Would have required students to sign honor pledges on coursework

will replace Sen. Joe Luppino-Esposito, a junior—who will be participating in the elections as a candidate, according to Scofield.

Only the Truthfulness of Honor Act failed to pass by a vote of 6-14 during the Senate’s meeting. The bill, sponsored by Watson, would have required students to write a portion of the Honor Pledge and sign the statement at the end of any piece of scholastic work.

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STAFF EDITORIAL

Snuff out smoking at delis

Members of the Virginia Senate, the upper house of the commonwealth’s General Assembly, are currently debating a bill which would ban smoking in all restaurants, unless owners displayed prominent “smoking permitted” signs at every entrance. Here at the College, where the campus alcohol policy generally pushes students to drink off campus, particularly at the delis, the issue of smoking in bars and restaurants is particularly relevant.

Regardless of whether the bill ever reaches the desk of Gov. Kaine, the City of Williamsburg and local business owners should take the initiative to prohibit smoking in restaurants. While deli and restaurant owners may fear losing the business of smoking patrons, collective action by the city and these establishments will not only create a healthier and safer atmosphere, but will also minimize inconveniences for all persons involved.

Particularly at the delis, where patrons regularly enjoy food along with their drinks, a crowded and smoky atmosphere makes the entire experience less enjoyable. With warmer weather approaching, and generally favorable year-round temperatures, stepping outside for a cigarette is hardly an inconvenience when compared to constant exposure to second-hand smoke. These businesses would lose few patrons, considering the monopoly that the delis currently hold on local nightlife.

Given the recent ban on smoking in state buildings, a law which took effect Jan. 1 of this year and includes campus residence halls, the College must continue its efforts to make the campus and the surrounding area safer for students. The administration’s crackdown on student on-campus drinking has encouraged, if not forced, students to seek off-campus social opportunities and alleviated the school’s liability concerns in relation to alcohol consumption. However, the College still possesses a paramount

*The City of Williamsburg and local business owners should take the initiative to prohibit smoking in restaurants.*

responsibility to facilitate and ensure the well-being and happiness of students, and smoke-free delis would be in direct alignment with this responsibility.

Of course, there is only so much the College can do. Although there are few concerns that are more understandable or valid for local business owners than losing revenue and customers, deli managers nonetheless have several incentives to take action on this issue. Students are not only some of the most frequent visitors to the delis, but generally account for a sizable percentage of wait staff and servers as well. Smoke-free establishments would be cleaner, more comfortable and more accommodating to a variety of people, as well as producing a healthier and more energetic staff.

Ultimately, if the bill does not pass in the Senate, the burden of this issue will fall squarely on the shoulders of the City of Williamsburg. The concept is by no means a new one. Smoking bans have been implemented and have proven effective in a large number of American cities, including New York, Chicago, Birmingham and Washington, D.C. Smoking is banned in all restaurants in 19 states, and even in those states that have not banned smoking, there are several examples of cities or counties choosing to implement their own bans. Alarmingly enough, Virginia is one of only five states, along with Tennessee, New Hampshire, Oklahoma and Iowa, where there is not a single municipality that has passed complete smoking restrictions in restaurants and bars.

Even for a state built on tobacco, this is simply unacceptable. Known worldwide for its historical significance, Williamsburg is now presented with another chance to make history by becoming the catalyst for a state-wide movement to improve health conditions. We hope the city will not let this opportunity go up in smoke.

The Flat Hat welcomes submissions to the Opinions section. Letters to the Editor and Opinions columns are due at 5 p.m. Sunday for publication the following Tuesday and at 5 p.m. Wednesday for the following Friday. All submissions must be typed and double-spaced, and must include the author’s name, telephone number and any relevant titles or affiliations with campus or national groups. Letters may be no more than 300 words; columns may not be less than 500 words nor more than 700. Letters must be e-mailed to [opinions@flathatnews.com](mailto:opinions@flathatnews.com). The Flat Hat reserves the right to edit all material. Because of space limitations, The Flat Hat may not publish all submissions. The Flat Hat Editorial Board meets before each issue to discuss the position taken by editorials. Unsigned editorials are written by a designated member of the Editorial Board. All Board editorials reflect the consensus of the Editorial Board. Letters, columns, graphics and cartoons reflect the view of the author only.

W&M: Soulful or soulless?

*Tidewater Gospel Music Festival supports the College against local criticism*

The Virginia Gazette, a local newspaper, features a segment called “The Last Word,” in which whiny members of the community can anonymously vent their concerns. For obvious reasons, the College has been a popular subject lately. “William & Mary now stands for ‘What a Mess,’” someone wrote last week in response to the Sex Workers’ Art Show and the continued Wren Cross controversy. Another angered citizen was inspired to declare, “I would not pay that school one cent for what it is obviously trying to teach. W&M used to be a source of pride for the community. While we are saying goodbye to morals, we may as well say goodbye to our beautiful Williamsburg.” My apologies: the above statement contains enough hyperbole to suffocate a small child or anyone with a tendency to be a “free thinker.” I ought to have given fair warning.

Last Saturday, Feb. 17, the University Center hosted an event that went relatively unnoticed by people at this institution, despite being decently publicized and well-attended by other nearby universities. Sam Sadler even mentioned it in one of his e-mails. It was called the Tidewater Gospel Music Festival, and it was enough to dispel the sickening and rampant myth that the College is a valueless place for atheist sex-fiends looking to subvert the good will of upstanding Christian traditionalists whenever possible. Granted, I fall into that last group, but that’s beside the point.

I’ve had the good fortune to attend this concert two out of the past three years, and it only gets better with time. Unfortunately, I’ve noticed that very few of our own students — less than 50, not including those who are members of Ebony Expressions — took advantage of the opportunity. Neither, of course, did Gene Nichol. In a desperate bid to woo back his Christian audience, Nichol paused during his busy day to express his disdain for the sex workers, but wouldn’t it have been a better career move to enjoy some gospel music? Instead of alienating his student body — you know, since many of us kind of enjoy sex — our president could have praised the talents of a group that certainly deserves as many compliments as we can muster.

The Gospel Music Festival ranks in the top three musical events I’ve heard on this campus. To give you an idea of what this means to me, those other two are The Roots and Wilco, internationally known acts who have visited William and Mary Hall — that is, Kaplan Arena — in the past two years (I’m not expecting My Chemical Romance to join their ranks anytime soon). Enormous gospel choirs from Virginia Commonwealth University, Hampton University and Virginia State University were all in attendance, each equipped with

*The Gospel Music Festival ... is an event that ... appeases those who mistakenly believe that our school is headed for the gutter.*

its own three-piece funk band. These were the kind of exemplary student musicians whose attention to dynamics and feel made even the whitest audience member feel like standing and clapping. Their incredible chops put the College’s indie rockers to shame.

VCU’s group, The Black Awakening, dressed in classy pink and brown outfits and ornamented their performance with the most soulful interpretative dance I’ve ever seen. How they managed to maintain four-part harmony and stay in sync with the band while pantomiming an earthquake is beyond me, but they did it so elegantly.

Of course, for readers of the Virginia Gazette, the icing on the cake is that this was a religious event: these performances were made to praise God. The Rev. Dr. William B. McClain offered sermons and anecdotes between the choirs. His book, “Songs of Zion,” was for sale in the lobby.

Perhaps the surly and misinformed “Last Word” writers may want to do some more research before they begin bashing our college. For every remotely controversial event, there are at least ten that even the most right-wing patrons would have trouble deeming “immoral.”

The assumption by some members of the Williamsburg community seems to be that it is the duty of a liberal arts institution to teach its students a specific moral code, and to restrict any number of worldviews in favor of one objectively correct lifestyle. Should this assumption take hold in our curriculum or in our extracurricular events, it will mean the death of a truly well-rounded education. Gazette readers — assuming they dirty their hands with this filthy, youth-run Flat Hat — may find it interesting that our English department has books like “Lady Chatterley’s Lover” and “Ulysses” on its syllabi. These books are brimming with sexual intercourse and other deplorable smut and, what’s more, they’re acclaimed as world-class literature. Students can read them in the Wren Chapel whenever they’d like. Isn’t that appalling? Phone your congressman immediately.

With any luck, next year’s gospel festival will get far more attendance from students at this school and people who live around Williamsburg. It is an event that is at once entertaining, informative and welcoming; moreover, it appeases those who mistakenly believe that our school is headed for the gutter whenever it attempts to show its students what goes on out there in the “real world.” For the last song of the night, all of the choirs took to the stage and performed together with the joyful noise that characterizes soul music. As they worshipped, I looked around the U.C. Tidewater and noticed that there wasn’t a Christian symbol in sight. I never heard a complaint — but perhaps the Gazette will print one next week.

*Dan Piepenbring, a junior at the College, is a Staff Columnist. His columns appear every Friday.*



BY CHAD THOMPSON, FLAT HAT CARTOONIST

Senate continues to serve

While it is well understood that a majority of the student body pays little attention to the Student Assembly Senate, in Friday’s issue, The Flat Hat’s Staff Editorial made a very important point: the senate does matter to students. But if this is the case, then why would an editorial title such as “Student Senate grows increasingly irrelevant” be necessary for The Flat Hat to print at the same time? The answer to this question is two-fold.

First (as stated), the senate is very passionate about the processes of government. As a result, the public (via campus press reporting) is presented with events that would seem childish for a student assembly to execute, and in most cases I would certainly agree. However, such events (although important to note) are quite uncommon given the length of time and effort that the body operates in totality beyond the meetings in which these events may occur.



Andrew Blasi

*The campus press and subsequently the public have been unable to witness the great progress that senators have made.*

cafeterias. As our energy consumption and cost on campus continues to escalate, Sen. Pilchen, a sophomore, continues to be a major advocate for change in saving both our environment and money. When it comes to finding increasingly better ways for the SA (and not just the senate) to work together as a body for the students, Senate Chair Luppino-Esposito, a junior, and Senate Secretary Matt Beato, a sophomore, have been and continue to be instrumental. When problems arose from students not being able to receive weekend help at the Health Center, Sen. Walter McClean, a sophomore, and Sen. Sarah Rojas, a freshman, worked diligently to see that students have such access. As for myself and Sen. Scott Morris, a freshman, we have also dedicated countless hours to serving the student body. We have eliminated the \$5 fee students paid in the past as a result of a stolen ID, amassed a cause and referendum where on March 29 students will be able to vote if they want cheaper laundry costs, empowered our college’s Hall Councils by working to eliminate the ability for Residence Life to charge students punitive fees and continued to work with Facilities Management to pave the numerous mud pathways on new campus that have proven dangerous to some students. Also, let us not forget that the effort to bring back Medical Amnesty during alcohol-related emergencies also emerged in the senate.

All of these accomplishments have happened just this year alone. When it comes down to it, the student body would suffer a great loss if the SA Senate ceased to function. It has been said by many that the senate is the greatest forum of ideas on campus, and although we have our juvenile moments every so often, the students should not forget that the senate has and will continue to serve them well.

*Andrew Blasi, a Student Assembly senator, is a freshman at the College.*

Downtown needs a New Town

A couple weeks ago, some friends and I went to New Town to see “Hannibal Rising” and, although I wholeheartedly suggest you don’t see that movie, I do recommend you check out New Town. While it does feel vaguely Hollywood-esque with the faux windows that line the streets, the place has a lot to offer on any night of the week. But, New Town is a bus ride away for most of us, and what’s more, when Williamsburg had the opportunity to add vitality to its own downtown scene, it was bullied into a compromise by what amounted to an angry mob of voters. Now that it appears students are getting the right to vote, we’ll have the chance (the duty?) to elect officials who’d favor livening things up a little closer to home.

But let’s step back for a moment to see what makes New Town great. It’s built on the “new urbanist” concept that says people are happier living in neighborhoods which combine housing, shopping and business. This allows them to get to a variety of places on foot — no need to hop in the car. Evidently, planners were getting



Andrew Peters

*Instead of integrating new buildings downtown, New Town was forced to spring forth fully formed, like some architectural Athena.*

it’s far away. Developers should not be blamed because they’d just as happily build downtown, but their opportunities are being curtailed by Williamsburg regulations. I’d be selling city officials short, however, if I didn’t mention their approval of a New Town-ish plan near Yankee Candle, but again, it’s too far away.

It may surprise you to learn that the city’s recently approved plan includes measures to add vibrancy to the downtown scene by converting some vacant lots off Armistead Street and by the Law School to newer, denser housing developments. Right now, when all the tourists leave Merchant’s Square after dark to do whatever it is tourists do at night, it’s obvious most of the area shuts down, unlike New Town. Even Mayor Zeidler agreed that the lower residential population downtown might have led touristy businesses to replace the more practical ones. More to the point, did you know there used to be a drug store in Merchant’s Square that sold things a student would actually want to buy? If Williamsburg had pursued this development plan to its fullest extent, there might be a different set of businesses downtown, like those that draw a lot of us to New Town on the weekends.

December’s city council meeting, however, made it seem that we’ll never know. A coalition of incensed citizens strong-armed the council into a compromise by booing opposing speakers, telling them to shut up and shouting at council members. In the end, the compromise plan was even more conservative than the one recommended by the planning department — the same planning department that finds four students living in the same house unacceptable.

In my Feb. 9 column, “Appreciate the College,” I referred to “the entertainment vacuum that is Williamsburg.” Well, maybe as registered voters, we can start to have a voice at those same city council meetings, a voice perhaps, that will someday make Williamsburg a much more exciting place to live.

*Andrew Peters, a sophomore at the College, is a Staff Columnist. His columns appear every Friday.*



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What is Sexual Virtue?  
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Sexual Virtue is *the habits of thought, habits of speech, and habits of action that promote a lifelong loving bond between a couple – the bond of love which they need themselves, and which their children need in their parents, in order that they may flourish.*

It is now well established that children do best when they are raised by their own biological mother and father in a low-conflict household. A massive quantity of data shows that marital breakup puts children at risk for a wide variety of adverse outcomes: emotional upheaval, lowered academic achievement, drug and alcohol abuse, depression, early and inappropriate sexual relationships, and trouble with the law.

Conflict in the home is lower when the parents are bonded to each other by love. Sexual relationships between the couple enhance that bond. It is also well established that success and happiness in marriage are well-correlated with sexual restraint before marriage. That is the subject of this letter.

Today there is an Emerging Science of Lifelong Love. Among the elements of this new science are (1) Case studies of long happy marriages, as for example a wonderful book by Judith Wallerstein and Sandra Blakeslee, *The Good Marriage*, which is a case study of the patterns of success in fifty long and especially happy marriages; (2) Quantitative social science, as for example a detailed quantitative analysis of a survey of over three thousand individuals, by Laumann et al. *The Social Organization of Sexuality* (the “University of Chicago” study); (3) Examination of the physiology of love, by Sue Carter, who showed that substances such as oxytocin mediate a “chemical bond” between mates; (4) An overall theory, which comes from evolutionary psychology, and which was well summarized by Robert Wright, in the first six chapters of *The Moral Animal*.

All these methods complement each other, and all point in the same direction. One well-established result of this new science is this: *one of the strongest predictors of success and happiness in marriage (and of a great sex life in marriage) is sexual restraint before marriage.*

For the past several decades, our sexual revolutionaries have posed a couple of questions that need to be answered. They used to claim, for example, that “The injunction against sexual activity before marriage held by earlier generations is no longer relevant, because now that we have effective means of birth control, there is no longer a need for postponement.” They also argued that “You cannot really know a person unless you have lived with them for a while, and therefore it is good to live together before marriage, so that you really get to know each other.” Fortunately for us, but unhappily for them, millions of people fell for arguments like these. As a result, today there is clear and unambiguous scientific data showing that they were mistaken.

Most of the data I discuss below comes from the “University of Chicago” study mentioned earlier. (There are *many* more studies showing consistent results.) These studies are not “rocket science”. All that is required is to get a representative data set, and then to count: what fraction of all couples get divorced, what fraction of those who cohabited together before marriage get divorced, and so on. The statistical methods are the same as those used in epidemiology, when health scientists are seeking correlates and causes of a disease.

First, we all know that modern marriages are disturbingly unstable. People born in the 1930's could expect to have one stable marriage for most of their adult lives, and the data shows that more than 60% of their marriages lasted 25 years or more. In contrast, for people born in the 1960's and later, it looks like more than half of their marriages break up in less than 12 years.

What factors are found to be the most important correlates of divorce or of stability? Let me emphasize that the results are based on simple counting, not on religious ideology or moral prejudices. Among the largest risk factors for divorce are: (1) religious differences, which approximately doubled the odds of divorce; (2) premarital cohabitation; and (3) race or ethnicity difference, each of which raised the odds of divorce by about 50%.

Let me explain. It is no disrespect to anyone to point out that race or ethnicity differences can put a marriage at risk. We learn about the obligations and expectations of marriage not from classrooms, but from our own parents and our own culture. Rarely do we logically think out what we expect in our marriage partner – we are just full of astonishment and perhaps irritation when they do things that we don't expect, or don't do things that we do expect. It comes as no surprise, then, that inter-ethnic marriages have a high breakup rate. If we choose such a marriage, we can be successful if we go into it with our eyes wide open, well prepared for the cultural differences.

Here is the surprise: marriages that are preceded by premarital cohabitation were found to have about as high a risk of divorce as inter-ethnic marriages. Thoughtful people might enter an inter-ethnic marriage with care and foresight, but, sadly, the same people might enter into a premarital cohabitation with no awareness that they may be putting their subsequent marriage at high risk.

What are predictors of stability in marriage? (1) Regular attendance at religious services; (2) virginity at marriage. Each of these reduced the odds of divorce by about 40%.

The method used to analyze the data attempts to separate various factors. Thus if we look at virginity at marriage and nothing else, we get a larger effect: those who are virgins at marriage have two to two-and a half times better odds of success than those who are not. For example, persons who are virgins at marriage are also especially likely to be regular churchgoers, and they would benefit from that additional stabilizing effect. In other words, the stabilization is not correlated solely with religion or solely with sexual behavior; apparently each makes a contribution.

The University of Chicago surveyors also asked questions about happiness and pleasure in the relationship. They asked, “In the past twelve months, generally, how happy have you been with your personal life? How physically pleasurable did you find your relationship with your partner to be? How emotionally satisfying did you find your relationship with your partner to be?” They found that monogamy is well correlated with general happiness, emotional satisfaction and physical pleasure in the relationship. They concluded: “Evidently, having one sex partner is more rewarding in terms of physical pleasure and emotional satisfaction than having more than one partner, and it is particularly rewarding if that single partner is a marriage partner....A monogamous sexual partnership embedded in a formal marriage relationship evidently produces the greatest satisfaction and pleasure....While it might be nice if one could experience the breadth of sexual pleasures that might be out there with many partners, and at the same time enjoy the satisfaction and pleasure that come from a long-term, carefully nurtured sexual partnership, it looks like one cannot have it both ways. A choice must be made. The reality seems to be that the quality of the sex ...is greater when one's limited capacity to please is focused on one partner in the context of a monogamous long-term relationship.”

Many other studies – conducted for over twenty years in the US, Canada, England, Sweden, Germany and Australia – repeatedly show that those couples who postponed sexual activity report higher overall happiness, higher overall satisfaction with their marriages, higher level of sexual activity and sexual enjoyment, better communication, and lower divorce rate. Conversely, it appears that the odds of divorce rise rapidly with the number of sex partners before marriage. All of these studies control as well as possible for other factors, such as religion and religious participation, year of birth, education, income, etc.

It is clear, then, that we do not have to adapt our moral stances to suit the fashions of the day. The best available social science now fully supports the traditional perspectives: *we now know that sexual restraint before marriage is one of the best predictors of stability and happiness in marriage.*

Why does postponement of sexual activity have so many benefits? The truthful answer is that no one knows for sure. There are many theories. (1) In the population that waits, there is a higher prevalence of other, independent traits of personality that are conducive to happiness and stability in a lifetime relationship. (2) People who wait are, by

so doing, *developing* traits of character that lead to happiness and stability in marriage – the ability to postpone gratification, the ability to please their spouse in other than sexual ways, the ability to *see* their partner in a different and deeper way. (3) Those who don't wait are unconsciously *developing* traits that lead away from happiness and stability in marriage: the unconscious *habit* of thinking of relationships as temporary; the unconscious *habit* of withholding a part of themselves, distancing a part of themselves from the relationship. (4) Because people *drift*, from dating, to “heavy petting”, to sleeping together, once, then regularly; “just for convenience”, he moves a few shirts over; before long they are living together, finally drifting into marriage.... And there has never been a *decision*....And then there are two children, and suddenly he, or she, wakes up, and starts struggling for freedom.

I listed these theories in a conversation with some friends once, and as I described each theory, they named a couple they knew who fit the pattern. Most likely all of these explanations are correct to varying degrees in different couples, and there must be other explanations as well.

Let us now look at the issues in a different way – focusing on the biochemistry of love. What happens when a relationship goes sexual? First we'll listen to some words from a 17 year old girl. “You break up with the guy and you've been having sex, it feels so bad, like he is taking something of you away with him when he walks. But you break up and you have not been having sex, and you say, well, that's that, and you can walk ahead.” There are millions upon millions of such stories today, and it is one of the oldest stories in literature. Why?

We now know that we are seeing the behavioral manifestations of a physiological process that is not under conscious control. The act of sexual intercourse, in particular female orgasm, like lactation and birth, cause the release of oxytocin, the “mother love” hormone. This substance is responsible for a sort of “chemical bond” between mother and infant, and it is responsible for a sort of “chemical bond” between an woman and her sex partner.

The role of oxytocin in bonding was established by a biologist named Sue Carter, first at the University of Maryland, and now at University of Illinois at Chicago. Many species of birds are reasonably monogamous, but only a few species of mammals are: prairie voles, marmosets and tamarins (South American monkeys), and some wild dogs. Carter studied prairie voles. These voles mate for life, stay together, and raise their young together. When they come together, there is a steamy “honeymoon”, in which they engage in repeated bouts of sexual activity, lasting 30-40 hours (as the scientists say dryly, “much longer than is necessary to ensure fertilization”). Afterwards, even when not fertile or mating, there is lots of touching, lots of physical contact, and they tend to stay close together. Observations of their behavior in cages established that sexual activity acts to cement the bond.

Suspecting that there was a hidden chemical process involved in that bond, and suspecting that oxytocin might be involved, Carter and her students performed the following experiments. (1) They injected oxytocin into a female, put her in presence of a male, and found that bonding occurred more quickly. (2) They blocked the receptors of oxytocin in the central nervous system, and found that bonding occurred more slowly.

Oxytocin is also released when a woman has a sexual relationship with a man, and it is one of the substances that mediates a kind of “chemical bond” between them. A woman's chemistry binds her to her mate.

Moreover, the bond is not symmetrical. Human males might produce maybe a tenth as much oxytocin as females. Therefore a sexual relationship outside of a permanent public promise is inherently an unequal relationship. When it breaks up, the woman may deeply grieve the loss, but the man can walk away, feeling good about himself.

Furthermore, because emotions are stronger when we are young, and our brains are more impressionable – that is, they are designed to soak up and remember all that is happening to us – the bond formed in an early sexual relationship may interfere with the more important bond that is needed during marriage. I have come across examples of

women who are basically happily married, but who cannot get the early experiences out of their minds, and find that their memories interfere with the pleasure they are supposed to be having with their husbands.

This chemistry explains, then, why human females do not quickly recover from a sexual relationship with a man. A sexual relationship outside of marriage is not an equal relationship. What might seem natural to some males — “coming of age”, “seeking relief”, or, as some guys inelegantly put it, “just getting laid” — is not natural for females, especially in monogamous species. Consistent with their higher biological investment in reproduction, females usually have a higher emotional investment in a sexual relationship than males have. Therefore when we men seek a sexual relationship outside of a lifetime bond, we are inherently being unfair. The art of seduction is the art of faking the right emotions, and persuading the young lady that our emotions are authentic. Men of integrity don't do that.

For some men, the reluctance of many women to participate in casual sexual relationships seems puzzling. But when we think about the chemical processes through which Nature has endowed powerful emotions in sexual relationships, we arrive at a better understanding – to deeply please a woman sexually, I have to convince her that I am the man whose babies she wants to bear. And the only way to do that with any integrity is to *be* the man whose babies she wants to bear, and promise her in public that I will be with her so long as we both shall live.

With this perspective, let's go back to our first question: What is sexual virtue? The root of virtue is the Latin word *Vir*, which means Man, so “virtue” is directly tied to manliness.

Sexual Virtue – Manliness – is a set of *chosen actions of the mind*. It is the *choice* to develop habits of thought, words and actions that promote a lifetime bond between a couple – the bond which they need themselves, and which is needed by their children – and *the choice* to turn away from thoughts, words and actions that demean or weaken that bond.

Sexual Virtue is **avoiding** situations that lead to inappropriate sexual temptations.

Sexual Virtue is **postponing** sexual relations until a lifetime promise is made publicly.

Sexual Virtue is **thinking** through our relationship with our girlfriend, asking ourselves “Is our relationship likely to lead to a lifetime bond? What am I doing to her prospects for finding lifelong love?”, and cooling down the relationship if the answer is No.

Sexual Virtue is **putting the fence way back from the cliff** – recognizing how quickly our actions can get out of control, and avoiding situations where this may happen.

Sexual Virtue is **refusing** to take advantage of a woman, even when she acts like she wants to be taken advantage of.

Sexual Virtue is **speaking out** against inappropriate and reckless depictions of sexuality in the media.

Sexual Virtue, *later*, is **enjoying** the pleasure of happy sexual relationships with one partner in a publicly committed lifetime bond, and ensuring that that person enjoys them as well.

Sexual Virtue is **living** in a way that sets an example for others.

No one can say that he has always been successful at everything on the list above. Virtue – Manliness – is refusing to lower our standards for ourselves, keeping our eyes on the goal, Lifelong Love with one other person, and continuing the effort to keep ourselves on course toward that goal.

J. B. Delos

Prof Delos is willing to discuss these issues with any campus group.

Further Reading:

J. S Wallerstein and S. Blakeslee *The good marriage: how and why love lasts*, Warner Books 1996.  
E. O. Laumann, et al. *The social organization of sexuality*, University of Chicago Press, 1994.  
C. Sue CarterCarter and L. L Getz. *Monogamy and the prairie vole*, Scientific American 268: 100-106 1993.  
Robert Wright, *The Moral Animal, evolutionary psychology and everyday life*. New York : Pantheon Books, 1994.



VARIETY

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# Spring Break

*Last minute spring break vacation ideas so you don't get stuck spending your break in the 'Burg*

By Chase Johnson  
Flat Hat Variety Editor

It's Feb. 23, and as we approach the month of March, spring break is already creeping into the minds of scores of exam-weary students.

One problem: you haven't made plans yet.

Sure, it's been on your to do list for a while now, but somehow it just keeps getting pushed back in favor of the reading you can never seem to finish. Or per-

find a roundtrip ticket to Florida or Cancun in the neighborhood of \$400 to \$600. But that doesn't take into account hotel, food or, perhaps most importantly, beverage.

If you are set on the beach experience, you might want to look to the Outer Banks along the Atlantic coast of North Carolina.

This is not peak season right now, so it's likely that there are several decent houses still available for the week, not to mention at a discounted rate. Sure, the water

road trip would better suit your preferences. Like the movie of the same name, hilarity is almost guaranteed to ensue on any trip involving friends on the open road. Bonus points if you have a far-fetched goal, like retrieving a poorly conceived revenge sex tape accidentally sent to your girlfriend across the country.

More likely, though, your trip could involve several stops, at which you spend a day or so before moving on to the next. A good way to accomplish this is

is probably the only direction to go. Baseball fans know that Major League Baseball's spring training is underway. By the time break rolls around, the pre-season exhibition games will have started. If you're a sports fan, entertain the thought of road tripping down to catch a few games. Tickets are generally easy to come by and are far cheaper than those you'll find during the regular season. The games offer a far more intimate setting than you'll find in big league stadiums and the experience is entirely different than a regular Major League game.

For a shorter road trip, find your closest Northern Virginia friend (you've got to have at least a few) and suggest a trip to the nation's capital. Washington, D.C. is a city full of touristy activities. The museums that make up the National Mall are all free, as are the monuments and art galleries. Other popular museums, such as the Holocaust Museum and the Spy Museum, are also possible stops; however, these museums have an entry fee.

In addition to its regular attractions, the District is also currently hosting the Shakespeare In Washington festival at the Kennedy Center. The festival features interpretations of the Bard's work through the media of theater, music, dance, film and art. So, if "The Tempest" or "Romeo and Juliet" are your cup of tea, perhaps this is the vacation destination for you. For more information on the Kennedy Center's Shakespeare programming, check out Kennedy-Center.org.

Washington will also play host to the Washington, D.C. International Food and Wine Festival March 9 through March 11 at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, which is close to the National Mall. Ticket prices are a bit steep at \$65 for a single day ticket or \$85 for both days, but the festival promises to be a high-end event, and should be considered by the aspiring gourmets among us. For more information on this event, check Wine-expos.com/dc.

For those looking to escape



COURTESY PHOTO • JONATHAN SEIDEN  
*Junior Floret Parker, sitting atop a scenic overlook in the Shenandoah Valley, takes a short break during a recent backpacking trip.*



COURTESY PHOTO • KITTYHAWK.GOV.OFFICE.COM  
*The beaches of the Outer Banks provide a perfect spring vacation setting.*



COURTESY PHOTO • CHASE JOHNSON  
*Vacations in locales such as the U.S. Virgin Islands are the stuff from which spring break dreams are made.*

haps Mug Night is the culprit. Regardless, with two weeks to go until the big week, you need a plan and fast.

A quick online check reveals a new problem: airplane ticket prices have skyrocketed and cruises have filled their guest lists. What is an fun-starved student to do?

Luckily, you're almost certainly not the only poor, unfortunate soul in this dilemma. What would the point of this article be if that as the case? And lucky for you, there are several options still open.

Travelocity.com may be telling you that the beaches of sunny Florida are out of your financial reach this late in the game. If you're lucky, you might be able to

may be cold, but with a handful of friends, you're almost guaranteed a stress-free week.

If you can't find what you're looking for in the Outer Banks, but don't want to give up on the beach, check up north in Delaware. Like the Outer Banks, the beaches along Delaware's coast are very popular summer vacation spots, but in the off-season, realtors are more interested in filling as many rental houses as they can, which means good prices. Although the commute is a bit farther from Williamsburg, Delaware has the added advantage of no sales tax, making shopping a popular pastime.

So what if the beach isn't your thing in early March? Perhaps a

to string together home cities of several friends. That way, you've got a guide and free lodging.

Another option is the marathon car trip with a single destination where you stay for a few mostly sleepless nights before packing up and returning home. An excellent destination for this latter form of road tripping is Montreal. Roughly a 12-hour drive from the Williamsburg area, Montreal has many attractions, especially for the under-21, crowd given the fact that the legal drinking age is 18. If you're among the age challenged, Montreal may be the perfect city for you; that is, if you can stand the frigid temperatures.

If you're simply interested in escaping the wintry weather, south



COURTESY PHOTO • TRIPADVISOR.COM  
*Montreal is a favorite destination for college students under the age of 21.*



COURTESY PHOTO • VACATIONLOVERS.NET  
*Washington, D.C. attractions include the National Mall and the Capital.*



COURTESY PHOTO • MLB.COM  
*Stadium workers in Florida prepare for the annual spring invasion of MLB.*

## Panty-twisting over juvenile scrotal knowledge overlooks more pressing issues

### CONFUSION CORNER



Lauren Bell

Let's play word association — the game where I say one thing and you say the next thing that pops into your head, and then I judge you because whatever you said, I'm sure I would have said something much cleverer. When I say, "William," you say, "Mary," or "Shakespeare," or something equally as obvious and non-offensive. A response like "Henry Harrison, ninth president of the United States," would be a little less conventional, but I'll allow it.

Now, what do you think of when I say, "children's book"? How about if I add "Newberry-award-winning" or "third grade level"? Are you thinking of the word "scrotum" yet?

Yes, scrotum. In this year's winner of the Newberry Medal, "The Higher Power of Lucky," the taboo anatomical reference shows up multiple times. And — surprise, surprise — people are getting their panties in a twist over it.

I'm a little torn on the issue myself. At first, this was because I wasn't exactly sure what a scrotum was. I knew it was a naughty word, but I'm innocent, I'm naive and I'm really bad

at anatomy. So I Wikipedia'd it, simultaneously learning all about the scrotum and turning Wikipedia into the exciting, shiny, new verb it's always wanted to be.

After my very enlightening Wikipedia session, I still didn't know quite how I felt about the choice of this particular word for use in children's literature. On the one hand — in case you couldn't tell from my own sparkling-clean language — I am not what you would call a "fan" of censorship. If people want to put scrotums (or is the plural "scrota"? ) all over their books, they're the authors — the people we entrust to educate our children; if they don't know what they're doing, we're in trouble.

Obviously, no favorite childhood books educated me about this particular subject (thanks a lot, Mercer Mayer), and the lack of such a literary learning experience forced me to publicly admit my ignorance in a silly column devoted to the word "scrotum." No parent wants their child to go through that kind of humiliation, or, worse

yet, to turn out like me.

On the other hand, no parent or teacher wants to undergo the blush-inducing experience of having a nine-year-old demand of her, "So Mrs. May, what the heck is a scrotum?" Scrotal knowledge seems to be the realm of the middle-school-and-up crowd. People who still partake of "potty breaks" and Dunk-a-Roos just don't sound right lisping through a story about one of the many unattractive features of the male genitalia, do they?

Maybe I'm not giving the kids enough credit. They probably don't have to Wikipedia things like that. Third-graders today are hip, they're worldly, they watch Discovery Health Channel (okay, just the ones being groomed for medical school, but I'm sure they pass the juicy bits on to their friends at recess). Who am I to say what they should be reading?

The offending scrotum of the story doesn't even actually belong to a human. It's a dog who suffers the mortification of having his scrotum discussed by not only the young, overly pre-

cious dog owner hero of the story, but also by the children, the parents, the librarians, the teachers and snarky little nobodies like me. Even more embarrassing for said dog, the scrotum in question appears as the unfortunate victim of a rattlesnake bite. There is no sex and no human nudity. I think dog nudity does occur, but everyone (weirdly enough) seems to be okay with that.

With these qualifiers in mind, I'm becoming convinced that the scrotum story is all right for the children. It teaches them to stick it to the censorship man. It encourages building online research skills. And when all is said and done, I think even the prudes can be happy. When the children see those Wikipedia pictures, they'll probably be put off their Dunk-a-Roos and their scrotum talk for the next few years. And then we can all focus on the more pressing issues of rattlesnake bites and dog nudity.

Lauren Bell is a Confusion Corner columnist for The Flat Hat. She creatifies verbs like it's nobody's business.





By ELIZABETH DERBY  
THE FLAT HAT

Clutched by the perpetual fear of straightforward social interaction, you have probably found yourself staring at someone whose appearance or demeanor is downright arresting, wishing desperately for guts or a “get out of propriety free” card because you know the conversation would just be so interesting. Just about anyone who knows Chris Edwards could attest that his hand-drawn T-shirt, vintage cardigans and signature ’stache are mere accoutrements to a personality that would make any awkward icebreaker worth the interaction. I personally laughed so hard I almost couldn’t do the interview. Fortunately, I persevered, and here That Guy muses on muskrats and the PC term for “pinheads.”

**Where do you get your clothes? Do you make them yourself?**

Well, all shirts with marker drawings on them are ones I made myself. I go thrifting a lot. I have been twice, by the same lady at the thrift store, been called a drag queen. I’ll buy a sweater or cardigan in the ladies section and I think I didn’t even buy it once, I was just looking at it, and she said something, like “On Maury there are these drag queens ...” while looking at me. I was like “It’s a men’s sweater that just happens to be in the ladies section!”

**So we’re friends. Kitty, I call her. Have you always been a funny man?**

I don’t really know. I [was] when I was eight. I won third place in Lemonade in the Shade, which is a local contest for children in Newtown, Iowa [my hometown]. I was going to do puppets, but the puppets didn’t work out, so I told jokes instead, and I won third place. I got beaten by a Chinese girl playing the violin and a cowboy playing the banjo.

**Did you do anything comedic in high school?**

Yeah, I was in a sketch comedy group called Graffiti. We were terrible. We had a girl in the group who we let in because she was crazy. Like one week we were filming and she ran away with her friend who was addicted to prescription pills. Everyone said she ran away to France because she was really into “Phantom of the Opera.” I don’t know what that has to do with anything. She actually ran away to north-eastern Iowa. She was still pretty crazy when she got back.

**Why were you in Europe this summer?**

I studied abroad in Prague over the summer. It was pretty awesome. I bought an airplane hat, and

# That Guy

## Chris Edwards

a taxidermied muskrat, and I met an adorable street urchin. She was actually really old. We were friends; she always asked for cigarettes, and I never had any. That was our thing.

**How did you meet?**

We were going home at 4 in the morning and she came up and asked for cigarettes outside of a store. We still e-mail.

No, those people don’t have computers. She spends her money on drugs. We actually only met once, but I think about her all the time. She was pretty important to me.

**You’re a senior. What are you doing when you graduate?**

Well, my modeling is really starting to take off, so I’ll probably go to Milan for a couple of years. But if that doesn’t work out, I’m probably going to go to the Kansas City Art Institute for a year to do my post-bacalaureate stuff before graduate school. I’m a Studio Art major. I do ceramics primarily.

**What are the fruits of your studies? Do you have a room full of jars somewhere?**

No, I do more sculptural ceramics. My mom has a room — my old room and now the quilting room, but the room that I stay in when I go home is full of my stuff.

Right now I’m doing a series of circus freaks. That’s pretty exciting. They’re in miniature. One is a Siamese salt-and-pepper shaker; the salt shakes out of one shoulder and pepper shakes out of the other.

I want to do pinheads. I don’t know if that’s the right word anymore.

**Any special memories about 7th Grade Sketch Comedy you’d like to share?**

The greatest thing that happened during a show ever was in “Applebee’s the Musical” — that real crowd pleasa. Shaun was at the part where he slides triumphantly across the stage on his knees. He slid right off the stage. I think someone in the group actually peed their pants laughing.

**So how has senior year been treating you?**

My turtle died this year. Large Marge. She was a terrapin, about the size of a hamburger. I’d had her for six years or something, and I just found her dead one day. We buried her at Lake Mataoka — we just put her in the lake — and we had a reception at Nawab. Actually we just ate at Nawab for lunch.

**Any last thoughts? About your person? Or your time at William and Mary? Or pinheads?**

I really don’t think that’s the appropriate term for it. What is it? Oh, microcephaly.

# Sex, advice and video tape

We’re surrounded by sex in the media. Movies, music videos and even magazines, sell sex and sexual suggestion almost constantly. But hey, if all of this sexual imagery around us gets us thinking and knowing more about sex, that’s not such a bad thing, right? I guess that could be true, except that much of what the media teaches us about sex is untrue and occasionally dangerous.

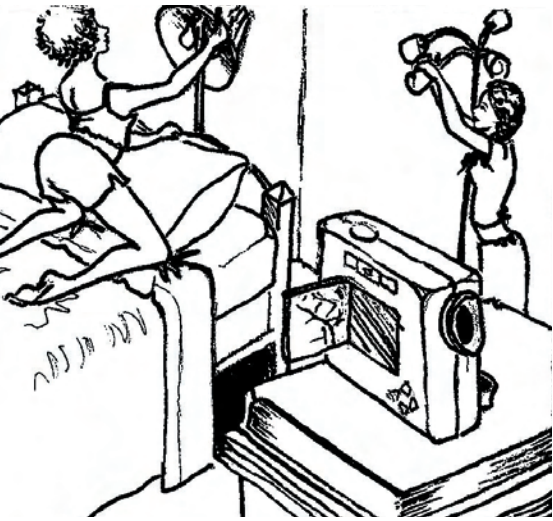
One of the biggest problems with movie sex, from the perspective of real people trying to have good sex, is that, in the movies, they never talk about anything. The tension builds between the hero and heroine while they save the planet or whatever until they finally kiss, rapidly ripping each other’s clothes off and getting down to business without many words to

get in the way. Before you know it, they’re naked, hot and nearing climax, all in silence except for the occasional moaning.

All of us who live in reality, however, know that sex should never happen without some conversation first. In fact, it’s probably not going to be good if you don’t communicate well. Movie characters never discuss who has a condom or pause for a moment in their passionate embrace to grab one from a purse or drawer. They skip the foreplay, the build-up and all of the other great parts in the middle and go from the first embrace to the climax in 60 seconds flat. Also, our on-screen lovers never talk together about what their partner might want sexually. Their turn-ons, techniques and tricks are never verbalized, each player just magically knows what to do to win the game. The problem is that, in reality, lovers can’t usually read each other’s minds, especially not the first time in bed, and in order to have healthy, satisfying sex you need to communicate, about what you like and don’t like, and what you really enjoy.

Another problem with the movies is that they always seem to have mind-blowing sex. I mean, I understand why the movies producers do this — I certainly don’t want to watch Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie have awkward, clumsy sex on screen. But, as we all know, not all sex is great sex — not even close. Sometimes we have bad sex, awkward sex or just plain boring, mediocre sex and that’s pretty normal. From our constant media exposure, however, it’s easy to feel like we should all be having earth-shattering sex, from beginning to end — with a simultaneous climax in a few minutes.

So, what can we do about these dangerous media myths about sex that have been fed into our brains by Hollywood? Just being aware of the ridiculousness of the situation we are watching goes a long way. Also, if you are feeling like being a little more proactive in



your quest to break down the impacts of the media in your own sex life, try rebuilding the media in your own image, literally — try making your own movie.

Making and then watching a video of yourself having sex with your partner(s) can be a surprisingly hot and eye-opening experience. At first, the idea of watching yourself have sex can induce cringing levels of awkwardness, like the painful process of listening to your own voice on your voice mail message, except worse, because you’re naked and moaning. However, almost everyone I’ve talked to who has tried it has decided that, despite their initial aversion, it actually wasn’t so bad to watch themselves in action.

The actual recording itself shouldn’t be that hard. If you are feeling very brave and artistic, you can recruit a friend to operate the camera, thus getting the best angles and lighting. However, in most cases, just setting up a camera on a nearby table or dresser so that it has a good clear shot of the bed will work just fine. Then, do your best to ignore it. Once you’re in the moment with your partner, you’ll probably forget all about it, anyway.

Then, later, sit down together and watch your movie. Sure, it’s not going to look quite as good as those scenes in the movies, but, then again, no one was interrupting to fix your hair or reposition your legs at a better angle for the audience, right? It’s a interesting experience because it gives you a chance to see what actual sex looks like. You might have a funny expression on your face or move your body in an awkward way, but it’s real and what felt right to you both at the time. You’ll probably look better than you feared. Frankly, that’s hotter than fake movie sex. At least you actually got off and the actors most likely did not.

You can check video-cameras out from the Swem media center, so I don’t know what you’re waiting for. Next time, instead of going out to a movie, stay in and make one!

*Kate Prengaman is the Flat Hat sex columnist. She’s putting herself up for auction March 1 in Lodge 1 from 9 to 11 p.m. to help kids in Losho, Kenya. She’d love for you to come bid on a date with her ... for the kids.*

# Last minute spring break ideas

SPRING BREAK *from page 8*

the city and civilization, this next trip might be more up your alley. Check out a few backpacks and some camping equipment from the Rec Center and go backpacking through the Shenandoah Valley. There are seemingly endless trails running through the mountains and the valley, leaving the possibilities for an outdoorsy trip completely up in the air.

While the weather will probably be chilly, taking such a trip will help you escape from the stresses of academia, at least for the week you’ll be trundling through the wilderness. Be advised, though, that there are some costs associated with this trip, including the equipment rental, passes to get into the park and overnight permits.

With spring break arriving in two weeks, the time to finalize your plans is now. Use one of these ideas, modify one to make your own plans or simply come up with one of your own. Whatever you do, don’t be the only person at the Green Leafe for Mug Night come March 11.



COURTESY PHOTO • JONATHAN SEIDEN  
*This Belize destination is beyond most students’ means.*

## SUDOKU

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7	5	1	9	8	6	2	4	8
6	2	4	5	8	1	7	8	9

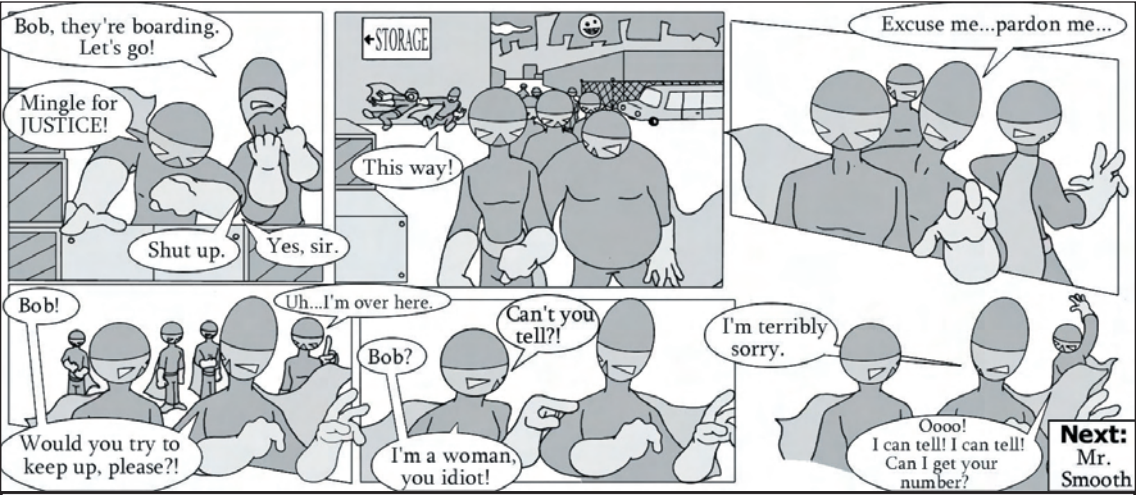
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1	8	9	7	5	6	4	8	2
4	8	6	1	8	2	7	9	5
8	7	4	5	9	8	2	1	6
6	2	5	8	4	1	8	7	9
8	9	1	6	2	7	5	4	8
2	6	8	4	7	9	1	5	8
5	1	7	8	6	8	9	2	4
9	4	8	2	1	5	8	6	7

Hard

Directions:  
Fill in the blank squares so that each row, each column and each three-by-three block contain all of the digits 1 through 9.

Source: crazydad.com



Heroman By Thomas Baumgardner

# Horoscopes

**Pisces:** Feb. 19 - March 20



The trees will speak to you this week, uncovering the darkest and most mysterious secrets behind weight loss. Just make sure you listen.

**Aries:** March 21 - April 19



You will storm out of your physics class this week, not because you failed a quiz or test, but because you do not attend this school.

**Taurus:** April 20 - May 20



Group projects are mundane and tedious in your opinion, especially when groups do not reference drugs as a primary source.

**Gemini:** May 21- June 21



The stars are watching over all of your activities this week. But you can’t watch us; we have a restraining order.

**Cancer:** June 22 - July 22



Technology has a hold on you, which you will realize this week when you “accidentally” superglue your phone to your belt.

**Leo:** July 23 - Aug. 22



You will decide this week that anything that makes someone hurt is a bad thing, unless it makes people laugh. Then it’s fine.

**Virgo:** Aug. 23 - Sept. 22



You knew it was time for a wake-up call when you found out chasing squirrels around all day does not count as a psychology lab.

**Libra:** Sept. 23 - Oct. 22



After entering a “time machine,” you will wake up tomorrow with a hang-over, sore throat, a tie-dye shirt and bell-bottoms.

**Scorpio:** Oct. 23 - Nov. 21



As an advocate of business, you will practice all next week punching numbers into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet.

**Sagittarius:** Nov. 22 - Dec. 21



A creative solution is always on the horizon, but cherry bombs will never fix your broken toilet — even if they do provide late night entertainment.

**Capricorn:** Dec. 22 - Jan. 19



While your Segway is on the fritz, you will be forced to break out the skis and resort to your back-up transportation plan of cross-country skiing.

**Aquarius:** Jan. 20 - Feb. 18



Spring break is coming soon, so plan ahead and get alcohol as soon as possible. Remember to resist the urge to drink it all beforehand.



# Oscar watch: who will win vs. who should win

The Nominees

The Snubs



COURTESY PHOTOS • PARAMOUNT VANTAGE, WARNER BROS., MIRAMAX, FOX SEARCHLIGHT  
*“Babel” and “Letters from Iwo Jima” are two of the frontrunners for Best Picture. Helen Mirren and Forest Whitaker are the favorites to win Best Actress and Best Actor for their roles in “The Queen” and “The Last King of Scotland,” respectively.*

By CONOR MCKAY  
FLAT HAT ASSOC. REVIEWS EDITOR

Everyone knows the Academy is fickle — shunning indie movies and small comedies in favor of blow-you-away blockbusters and those films about which the studios muster the most Oscar buzz. That’s why I like the way Roger Ebert does his Oscar predictions; he makes two lists: predicted winners and preferred winners. We skeptics may bet one way, but that doesn’t mean we want those results, and so let’s get right down to my list — predicted and preferred.

Best Picture: I’m really happy “Little Miss Sunshine” nabbed a nomination, but chances are the Academy will send this sweet, awkward comedy home without Oscar gold. It has two big things working against it: It’s a comedy (they nab nominations but rarely win) and it’s been a long time since it was released in theaters (even though it found a strong second life on DVD). “The Queen” made a good showing among critics and Helen Mirren is a shoe-in for an acting award, but I have a feeling that this film’s slow box office take will work against it. “The Departed,” Martin Scorsese’s latest masterpiece, sports amazing performances from all involved, but Scorsese picked a bad year, pitting his film against forerunners “Letters from Iwo Jima” and “Babel.” While “Letters from Iwo Jima” is, in my opinion, the more amazing movie, “Babel” has a similar appeal as last year’s winner “Crash.” “Babel” features a number of different intersecting story lines, each one carried by wonderful performances from the likes of Golden Globe nominee Brad Pitt and Oscar nominees Adriana Barraza and Rinko Kikuchi. Audiences see the film’s events as wholly plausible, adding tremendously to the film’s mass appeal. Granted, “Letters from Iwo Jima” is actually based on true events, but depressing war films tend to have a hard time winning Best Picture (see “Saving Private Ryan”), not to mention that it isn’t in English and no foreign language film has ever won the award.

**Predicted winner: “Babel”**  
**Preferred winner: “Letters from Iwo Jima”**

Best Actor: This category is a mess this year. The best performance of the year came from Leonardo DiCaprio in “The Departed,” but he got his nomination votes split by doing an excellent job in “Blood Diamond” as well. Problem is, his role in “Blood Diamond” — the one for which he’s nominated — isn’t as spellbinding as his role as an

undercover cop, as in Scorsese’s film. It therefore won’t win it for him regardless of whether he did a great job — which he did. Will Smith played the most inspirational man in the world in “The Pursuit of Happyness,” but this movie was so over-advertised that people like myself got sick of him and it, which will hurt his chances. Ryan Gosling is a darkhorse candidate for his role as a drug addicted high school teacher in “Half Nelson.” He is amazing in the film, but it’s rare to pull a major acting award for a movie no one saw and that wasn’t nominated in a single other category. Peter O’Toole is wonderful in “Venus” as an aging actor wooing his best friend’s great-niece, but, while pleasant, he falls short of the kind of breathtaking role that wins Oscars. All bets are on Forest Whitaker taking home the Academy trophy to go along with his Golden Globe for his captivating role as an evil yet charismatic dictator in “The Last King of Scotland.”

**Predicted winner: Forest Whitaker, “The Last King of Scotland”**  
**Preferred winner: Leonardo DiCaprio, “Blood Diamond”**

Best Actress: This category is the least contested, as Helen Mirren is, by far, the favorite to take home the Oscar for her role as the ill-directed queen of England following the death of Princess Diana in “The Queen.” She deserves it. That’s not to say the category doesn’t have interesting candidates. Meryl Streep won’t win the award for “The Devil Wears Prada” (again, a comedy), though she yet again dazzles in her role as a self-centered fashion executive. This marks Streep’s 14th Academy Award nomination, and, as always, she completely deserves it. Judi Dench plays a very creepy aging teacher working at a British prep school who builds her life around manipulating younger women into being her friends and soulmates. Dench’s serene portrayal of the obsessive character is chilling. It’s good to see Penelope Cruz receive a nomination for her role in the Spanish film “Volver” — even though I think the best foreign language performance of the year came from young Ivana Baquero in “Pan’s Labyrinth” — but winning an award without speaking English is practically impossible. Lastly, Kate Winslet grabs her fifth nomination and, probably, fifth loss with her role as a cheating wife in “Little Children.” She’s good, but of all her Oscar-nominated roles, this is the weakest.

**Predicted winner: Helen Mirren, “The Queen”**



COURTESY PHOTOS • UNIVERSAL, PICTUREHOUSE, WARNER BROS.  
*Clive Owen in “Children of Men,” Ivana Baquero in “Pan’s Labyrinth,” Leonardo DiCaprio and Jack Nicholson in “The Departed” and Matt Damon in “The Good Shepherd” are just a few of the actors snubbed this year by the Academy.*

See OSCAR page 11

## HBO’s ‘Rome’ conquers with depth

By CHRIS KAPLAN  
THE FLAT HAT

Ah, Rome. Its influence upon Western civilization — nay, the entire world — is incalculable. Its customs and social institutions have played a pivotal role in shaping many modern societies. Certainly, the sheer number of proverbs referring to the city is just one indication of the far-reaching effects its time in history has had on humanity. And now, part of that history has been made into yet another riveting TV miniseries.

“Rome” is not just a serialized “Gladiator,” or even a dully narrated,

drawn-out historical documentary. This series combines the best elements of both, as it manages to fuse an intensely dramatic and visually stunning story with a keen respect for the historical realities of the time.

Jointly produced by HBO and the BBC, this eponymously-titled period drama covers the turbulent transition from the Roman Republic to the Roman Empire, just before the end of the first century BCE. Several perspectives are shown through interwoven plotlines of characters that hail from diverse sectors of society — noblemen, senators, soldiers, seedy criminals and more

— many of whom eventually interact with and affect one another in some capacity despite their disparate social positions.

A good number of these stories will intrigue viewers (though some more than others), and the emotional landscapes traversed are as varied as the personalities covered. Any onlooker will become inescapably engrossed with the machinations of Atia of the Julii, played by Polly Walker (“Patriot Games”), the crafty niece of Julius Caesar who deftly manipulates friend and foe alike, even her children, to secure her own position in the upper echelons of power. At the same time, Atia

and her family’s fates become indelibly affected by the actions of two soldiers who would otherwise have no interaction with the Roman elite. This narrative technique makes for a complex and densely layered depiction of the intense political and social turmoil of the time.

Though the show covers many perspectives, the storyline focuses on the two aforementioned soldiers — the Lucius Vorenus and Titus Pullo, played by Kevin McKidd (“Kingdom of Heaven”) and Ray Stevenson (“King Arthur”), respectively — who, through either

See ‘ROME’ page 11

## Chris Cooper stars in CIA thriller ‘Breach’

By MOHAMMAD RAHMAN  
FLAT HAT ONLINE EDITOR

The year 2001 will always be remembered for the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001 and the beginning of the War on Terror. While one threat may have begun, another threat was brought down that year. On Feb. 21, 2001, Robert Hanssen — the biggest traitor in U.S. history — was convicted of espionage and brought to justice. The damage that Hanssen brought to the U.S. government has been estimated at several billion dollars.

Now, if the ending is already given away, why watch the film? Like “Titanic,” “Breach” is the kind of movie where the excitement lies in watching the buildup that leads to the inevitable conclusion. The film still has its share of twist and turns, and its riveting conclusion is well worthwhile.

Aspiring FBI agent Eric O’Neill (Ryan Philippe, “Crash”) has been given the task of exposing his boss, Hanssen (Chris Cooper, “Syriana”), for selling secrets to the Soviet Union. Over 50 people had been assigned over the past decade to bring down Hanssen, and all were unsuccessful. To add to his insurmountable task, O’Neill must also face problems with his marriage and his loyalty to his country.

The acting sets the film apart from other recent political thrillers such as “The Sentinel.” Philippe and Cooper do superb. For Cooper, it’s nice to see him in a starring role after being a supporting player in so many films. It is surprising that he doesn’t get more offers

like this; his portrayal of the psychotic yet sympathetic Robert Hanssen should get him a few more. This is another commendable job choice by Philippe, following roles in “Flags of our Fathers” and “Crash.” The cast is nicely rounded out by Laura Linney (“Kinsey”), who plays stoic agent Kate Burroughs, the head of the investigation, and Dennis Haysbert (“24”), as Dan Plesac, another head agent.

Relatively new director Billy Ray does a fine job with the film. His only previous credit is the Hayden Christenson journalist flick “Shattered Glass,” which dealt with similar themes as does “Breach.” There isn’t anything groundbreaking about Ray’s work, but, if anything, it is above average. The music in the film is about the same — nothing extravagant, but it doesn’t hinder the product.

The movie’s best asset is its characters, by which it lives and dies. “Breach” does something a lot of movies do not seem to do anymore — it takes its time to fully develop the film’s protagonist and the antagonist. O’Neill is the young hotshot trying to make a name

for himself but is thrust into a “David and Goliath” battle with the crafty double-agent Hanssen. The case gets even more interesting as O’Neill and Hanssen develop a bond.

In a Hollywood where movies have an excess of unnecessary drivel, “Breach” takes advantage of the simple elements of filmmaking: solid directing, combined with superb acting and an easy-to-follow script results in an end product that proves appealing to the masses. “Breach” is the rare political thriller that lets its dialogue do the talking and lets its actors tell the story, instead of relying on unnecessary car chases and big explosions.



COURTESY PHOTO • UNIVERSAL  
*Chris Cooper (RIGHT) stars as CIA traitor Robert Hanssen in the new CIA thriller “Breach.” The film also stars Ryan Philippe (LEFT) as the young FBI agent assigned to bring Hanssen down.*



COURTESY PHOTO • WARNER BROS.  
*Drew Barrymore and Hugh Grant star as a best-selling author and a washed-up rocker in the new romantic comedy “Music and Lyrics.”*

## Drew and Hugh make ugly ‘Music’

By RACHAEL SIEMON-CAROME  
FLAT HAT STAFF WRITER

One of the worst feelings is to walk into a movie with the highest of expectations, only to come out feeling like you wasted two hours of your life. Don’t get me wrong — I wasn’t expecting an Oscar winning film from a Hugh Grant romantic comedy. We have seen the formula many times before, but in the past it worked a whole lot better. I’ll put it this way: if you asked me to describe “Music and Lyrics” with a single word, it would have to be “unbearable.”

I hardly know where to begin. There is a complete lack of chemistry between Hugh Grant and Drew Barrymore; there was just nothing there. In a romantic comedy, that means the film is pretty much doomed before it starts. The love story only served to bore and depress. At no point did I care whether the two characters ended up together, even though it was clear they would.

Even as individuals, both characters are insanely annoying. Grant’s Alex Fletcher is an ’80s has-been rocker who never recovered after his bandmate left to become a big star. Barrymore plays Sophia Fisher, the author of a best-selling book about her numerous failures as a writer.

Grant is at his worst, far removed from the performances we loved in films like “Notting Hill” and “About a Boy.” He looks old and washed-out, clearly from a generation way before that of his female co-star. It seems he is on his way to becoming the very has-been that he plays in the film. Barrymore also fails miserably in her role, managing to be more annoying than ever. As an audience, we are clearly meant to find Sophie’s quirky and offbeat personality endearing. Instead, we just want to smack her in the face. She appears desperate and needy, and is never able to gain the sympathy of the audience. Both characters are empty and uninspiring. Neither of them confront the demons of their pasts — they only end up with each other in order to bond over their mutual fear of failure and rejection.

See ‘MUSIC’ page 11





Singled Out  
Modest Mouse — “Dashboard”

From the band’s LP *We Were Dead Before the Ship Even Sank*

The first single off Modest Mouse’s new album falls between the band’s rockier past and its highly melodic sound on the band’s breakout 2004 release. Credit goes to the addition of former Smiths guitarist Johnny Marr.

— compiled by Conor McKay

iTunes top 10 albums

1. *Music and Lyrics (Music from the Motion Picture)* — Various Artists
2. *Infinity on High* — Fall Out Boy
3. *Daughtry* — Daughtry
4. *Corinne Bailey Rae* — Corinne Bailey Rae
5. *Taking the Long Way* — Dixie Chicks
6. *Continuum* — John Mayer
7. *Cities* — Anberlin
8. *Not Too Late* — Norah Jones
9. *FutureSex / LoveSounds* — Justin Timberlake
10. *Portable Sounds* — Tobymac

McSpinoff in the works

Initially hated by Mere-Dere fans for keeping the destined-to-be-together-forever “Grey’s Anatomy” couple apart, Kate Walsh’s Addison Montgomery quickly became a show sweetheart. ‘Grey’s’ creator Shonda Rhimes is in talks with Walsh to create a spinoff that would center on Dr. Montgomery. Plans are still vague: no decision has been made on where the show will even be set. Whatever the outcome, let’s hope Addison can hold our interest without being so dark and twisty.



Drunk much?

Crazy cool Paula Abdul continues to deny rumors that she regularly attends interviews and work drunk, going as far as to claim she’s never been drunk in her life. She was surely straight up when she filmed clips that surfaced on the internet that showed her squirming in her seat and slurring her words. According to the “American Idol” judge, she has never been drunk or done recreational drugs, a claim ‘Idol’ executive producer Nigel Lythgoe confirms.



Britney’s prerogative

She did it again — for the third time within a week, newly bald Britney Spears has checked into rehab. She enrolled one more time at the Promise Malibu Treatment Center, which specializes in drug and alcohol abuse, in a 30-45 day program — a little far-fetched, considering her first two rehab stints were both less than 24 hours each. This comes right as her court date to contest K-Fed’s custody petition approaches. Who knew “Lucky” was such a prophecy?



Bitter Kim bashes Eminem

Always classy Eminem has reacted to comments his ex-wife made last week about the star. Kim Mathers discussed intimate details of the couple’s relationship, saying “he’s not very well-endowed” and that the sex was “bad.” Eminem responded, saying “It’s a shame that I’ve moved on and Kim hasn’t. Her ongoing press campaign is doing nothing but harm to the children, and for that I feel truly sorry.”

— compiled by Alice Hahn

# Oscar hopefulls hold breath

OSCAR from page 10

Preferred winner: Helen Mirren, “The Queen”

Best Director: This one’s hard. First, let me eliminate the easy ones. There’s no reason beyond sentimentality for Paul Greengrass to be nominated for directing “United 93,” a film that only received one other minor nomination. The Academy seems to love “The Queen,” nominating it six times, but, based on his competition, director Stephen Frears shouldn’t be surprised that this isn’t the film’s strongest category. Clint Eastwood has been nominated for the third time in five years for directing “Letters from Iwo Jima,” the better of the director’s two amazing war films released this year. Martin Scorsese has been nominated for the eighth time for directing “The Departed,” a film pitting an undercover Boston cop against an Irish mafia mole. Eastwood won the award in 2004 for “Million Dollar Baby” and in 1992 for “Unforgiven.” Scorsese, as we all know, has never won. Is this his year? In my opinion, no — but, I don’t think Eastwood will get it either. The Academy rarely splits the Best Director and Best Picture awards between two films. Although they did it last year, giving Ang Lee the award for “Brokeback Mountain,” while “Crash” won Best Picture, who wasn’t shocked by the split? My money is on Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu winning the award

for “Babel,” giving the film the clean sweep many believe it deserves. A lot of hope Scorsese will finally win the directing award he has so long deserved and missed — at the very least so that everyone will stop bitching about it — but yet again, this just isn’t his year.

Editors’ Oscar picks

	Best Picture	Best Actor	Best Actress	Best Director
Editor-in-Chief Josh Pinkerton	“Babel”	Forest Whitaker	Helen Mirren	Martin Scorsese
Managing Editor Ashley Baird	“The Departed”	Forest Whitaker	Judi Dench	Martin Scorsese
Executive Editor Max Fisher	“The Departed”	Peter O’Toole	Meryl Streep	Paul Greengrass
News Editor Andy Zahn	“The Departed”	Forest Whitaker	Helen Mirren	Martin Scorsese
Variety Editor Chase Johnson	“Little Miss Sunshine”	Forest Whitaker	Helen Mirren	Martin Scorsese
Sports Editor Louis Malick	“The Queen”	Forest Whitaker	Helen Mirren	Clint Eastwood
Reviews Editor Alice Hahn	“The Departed”	Forest Whitaker	Helen Mirren	Martin Scorsese
Opinions Editor Joe Kane	“The Departed”	Forest Whitaker	Helen Mirren	Clint Eastwood

Predicted winner: Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu, “Babel”  
Predicted winner: Martin Scorsese, “The Departed”

And of course, what would an Oscars list be without notable snubs? If I had it my way, “Pan’s Labyrinth” and “Children of Men” would be the top contenders for Best Picture, but “Children of Men” was released too sparsely and too late in the year to muster much buzz and “Pan’s Labyrinth” is in Spanish (only eight foreign language films have ever been nominated for the award, including this year’s “Letters from Iwo Jima”). Still, “Children of Men,” a horribly bleak view of the future, was the best film of the year and should have received nominations for Best Picture, Best Director for Alfonso Cuaron, Best Actor for Clive Owen and Best Supporting Actor for Michael

Caine (the best per-formance of the year by anyone). Likewise, “Pan’s Labyrinth,” a gruesome adult fairy tale set in World War II Spain, should have been nominated for Best Picture, Best Director for Guillermo del Toro and Best Actress for twelve-year-old Ivana Baquero. As I said before, Leonardo

DiCaprio should have been nominated for his role in “The Departed” instead of “Blood Diamond,” but I didn’t mention that his costar Matt Damon could have easily been nominated for either “The Departed” or for his amazingly controlled performance as a CIA agent in “The Good Shepherd.” Mark Wahlberg may have received the nomination for Best Supporting Actor for “The Departed,” but Jack Nicholson is the one who really deserved it, playing a mob boss who is starting to lose it. As for the other major categories: Best Supporting Actor: Eddie Murphy, “Dreamgirls”  
Best Supporting Actress: Jennifer Hudson, “Dreamgirls”  
Best Foreign Film: “Pan’s Labyrinth”  
Best Documentary: “An Inconvenient Truth”  
Best Animated Film: “Cars”  
And there you have it. The predictions are in. Tune in Sunday and see how I did. You’re free to bet with me, but don’t blame me when the Academy empties our wallets with another shocking finish.

# ‘Rome’ rises above expectations

‘ROME’ from page 10

dumb luck or some otherwise unknown conspiring of the Fates, continually cross paths with more historically significant figures. Through these coincidental encounters, the two often manage to impact crucial political and military situations that are often beyond their comprehension.

At the show’s start, Vorenus is a tightly scrupled, respectable soldier, and his initially unwelcome companion Pullo pulls off the brutish, badass persona with an intense believability. Yet, as a testament to the show’s writing, these two, along with many other characters, change in many respects in response to the world-altering events of the time. Their realistic portrayal of two simple soldiers embroiled in an increasingly volatile political struggle serves as a steady grounding for the story.

The fickle fortunes of these characters — though at times requiring a momentary suspension of disbelief — and the impact it has on their development and relationships imbues the series with a touching human element. This, in effect, nicely balances the broad scope of the series. Not only are Vorenus and Pullo portrayed in a plausible light, but viewers are also given personal insights into every other character’s emotional involvement in the inevitable human drama of love, friendship and betrayal.

The first season covers the Gallic Wars of Gaius Julius Caesar, his political struggles with the Senate for power, and his eventual

(this can’t be a spoiler, it’s history, right?) ascendancy to dictatorship over the weakening Roman Republic.

The second and final season, which premiered in January after a year’s hiatus, covers the aftermath of his assassination and the eventual rise of Rome’s first Emperor, the young son of Atia, Octavian, who is played by Max Pirkis (“Master and Commander”) in the first season and Simon Woods (“Pride and Prejudice”) in the second. As history buffs know, Octavian’s bitter power struggle with Marc Antony, depicted as a brutal but cunning commander by James Purefoy (“Vanity Fair”), will have powerful consequences for the fate of Rome.

In the most recent episode, Brutus, played by Tobias Menzies (“Casino Royale”), who is bent on restoring Rome to a republic, and his legions are destroyed in a crushing defeat at the Battle of Philippi. Before the battle, Antony and Octavian secretly make a temporary alliance to defeat this third force vying for Rome. Only in the next episode, which will skip a week in the schedule and premier Sunday, March 4 at 9 p.m., will we see if this alliance holds. Of course, you could always spoil the surprise by cracking open a book on ancient history.

Even those intimately familiar with Roman history will find themselves drawn to the series, identifying with the struggles, triumphs and sometimes confounding losses of the characters. There will certainly be at least one figure that viewers will find themselves rooting for — or against.

# ‘Music’ proves dischordant

‘MUSIC’ from page 10

The one highlight of the film is Grant’s absolutely hilarious stage scenes. If fans love one thing about him, it is his constant willingness to make a complete fool of himself on screen. Grant’s dance moves are reminiscent of that unforgettable scene in “Love Actually.” Fantastic film — you will be on the floor laughing at his rendition of an ’80s music video for the song “Pop! Goes

My Heart.” The video makes an excellent mockery of every cheesy pop song that none of us will admit we love. However, despite Grant’s talent for shaking his ass for the camera, it is nowhere near enough to save this film.

“Music and Lyrics” fails to achieve the basic necessities of any good romantic comedy. Stay home and save your money; this film is definitely not worth the ticket price.

## MEN’S TENNIS: TRIBE 4, BROWN 3

# Tribe tennis extends winning streak to five matches

BY HEATHER IRELAND  
THE FLAT HAT

The men’s tennis team continued its winning streak Tuesday when the Tribe earned its fifth straight victory after defeating another nationally-ranked team. Ranked 65th in the country, Brown University has yet to record a victory against the College with the final score of the match at 4-3.

Junior Alex Cojanu and freshman Keziel Juneau defeated the 15th-ranked doubles team in the country with a decisive 8-4 score. Cojanu and Juneau have now won three straight doubles play sets, having already contributed to the Tribe’s weekend victories over Longwood University and Norfolk State University. Both Longwood and Norfolk State were shut out by the Tribe, sweeping every one of both the doubles and singles play sets. Unfortunately, Brown took the early lead Tuesday, earning the team doubles point after the remaining two College doubles teams had been dispatched without a win.

Senior Colin O’Brien tied up the score, easily defeating his opponent 6-3, 6-3 for his fifth straight singles win and 13th singles win for the season thus far. Sophomore Marwan Ramadan

kept the Tribe’s momentum going with a 7-6(5), 7-5 victory in his singles sets. He was followed soon after by another College singles victory by Juneau, who won both of his sets via tiebreakers, 7-6(5), 7-6(0). This was Juneau’s 13th singles victory of the season, tying him with O’Brien and fellow freshman Richard Wardell for the current team lead in this statistic.

With only one more win in the singles play needed to clinch Tribe victory, sophomore Alex Zuck made sure to keep it away from Brown, fighting through three sets to take the overall victory for himself and his team with a 3-6, 6-2, 6-2 final score. This improved Zuck’s singles play winning streak to a career-record sixth straight win. Wardell struggled through three sets himself but was unable to come out with a win. Cojanu, ranked 49th in the nation, suffered an upset at the hands of his Brown opponent, ranked 82nd nationally, after putting up a fight through three full sets of singles play.

The College will host two home games Sunday at the McCormack-Nagelsen Tennis Center for some high-energy matches. The Tribe will go up against Boise State University, ranked 16th nationally., at 10:30 a.m. George Mason University, a CAA rival, will face the College at 4 p.m.

# Tribe hitting stride

GYMNASTICS from page 12

all four of her events, as she paced Hearts Invite field. Eight-time NCAA champion University of Nebraska, currently ranked sixth in the nation, turned in a team score of 196.7 to win the Invite. 24th-ranked University of West Virginia came in second with a score of 194.7, while North Carolina State University finished third and George Washington University placed fourth, finishing with totals

of 194.6 and 191.175, respectively.

Next weekend the Tribe women travel to Columbia, Missouri for the Cat Classic. The College will be up against another strong field, including Illinois State University, Ball State University and host University of Missouri. The men return to action in two weeks as they host Penn State and the U.S. Naval Academy, both nationally-ranked teams, March 3. The meet will begin at 2 p.m. in Kaplan Arena.

# Men to face ODU

BASKETBALL from page 12

the College’s 51.7 percent shooting effort and five three-pointers. Drexel, however, controlled the backboards with a 37-27 rebounding advantage, which led to 13 second-chance points.

The Tribe returns home to face the Old Dominion University Monarchs tomorrow at 2 p.m. Earlier this season, ODU defeated the College 59-44. The Tribe jumped out to a 17-

point first-half lead, but the Monarchs stormed back in the second half to win. ODU is riding a 10-game winning streak, which includes victories over the CAA’s top teams — Virginia Commonwealth University, Hofstra University and Drexel. The Monarchs have also won six straight games over the Tribe.

This contest marks the College’s final regular season game and its Senior Day celebration, as the Tribe will recognize Payton and fellow senior guard Adam Trumbower.



MEN'S BASKETBALL: TRIBE 57, DREXEL 64

## Tribe now 8-9 in CAA

*Men's offense sputters against Drexel in first half with 17-40 deficit*BY ANDREW PIKE  
FLAT HAT STAFF WRITER

For the second straight game, the Tribe's offense sputtered in the first half, leaving the College with an insurmountable deficit and a 57-64 defeat at the hands of Drexel University (21-7, 12-5) Wednesday in Philadelphia. The loss drops the Tribe to 15-13 overall and 8-9 in the CAA. Senior Adam Payton finished with a game-high 20 points, but Drexel's trio of double-digit scorers — Dominick Mejia (16 points), Scott Rodgers (14 points) and Frank Elegar (13 points) — led the Dragons to victory.

The Tribe struggled offensively without freshman David Schneider, who did not play due to a hip-pointer sustained last Wednesday against Drexel. It was déjà vu for the College in the first half, as they scored just 17 points with a 32 percent average, including a dreadful 1-14 from three-point range. The Tribe's first half was eerily reminiscent of the College's most recent outing at Fairfield, where they tallied only 13 first-half points.

Early in the first half, the Tribe stayed within reach of the Dragons. However, after junior Nathan Mann connected on a three-pointer with 8:27 remaining, Drexel outscored the College 24-6 en route to a commanding 40-17 halftime lead. Mejia, who was the Tribe's major defensive focus, caught fire in the first half as he tallied 14 points, including four three-pointers. Mejia's marksmanship reflected Drexel's 60 percent shooting overall and 50 percent accuracy from the three-point range.

The second half proved very different for both teams, as the Tribe's



ALEX HAGLUND • THE FLAT HAT

*The Tribe now stands at 8-9 in the CAA and 15-13 overall.*

offense came alive and Drexel's nearly disappeared. Drexel's lead reached 25 when Chaz Crawford — who finished with seven points and 14 rebounds — hit two free throws. The College, however, did not quit as they chipped away at the 25-point deficit. A 15-4 run, which included three three-pointers, had the Tribe within 14 points with 6:09 left.

Drexel answered with five quick points and left the College down 19 with 5:01 remaining. Though the Tribe responded with 14-2 run to end the game, Drexel still held on for the victory.

Payton's 14 second-half points fueled the comeback effort, as did

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MEN'S AND WOMEN'S GYMNASTICS

## Gymnasts score high

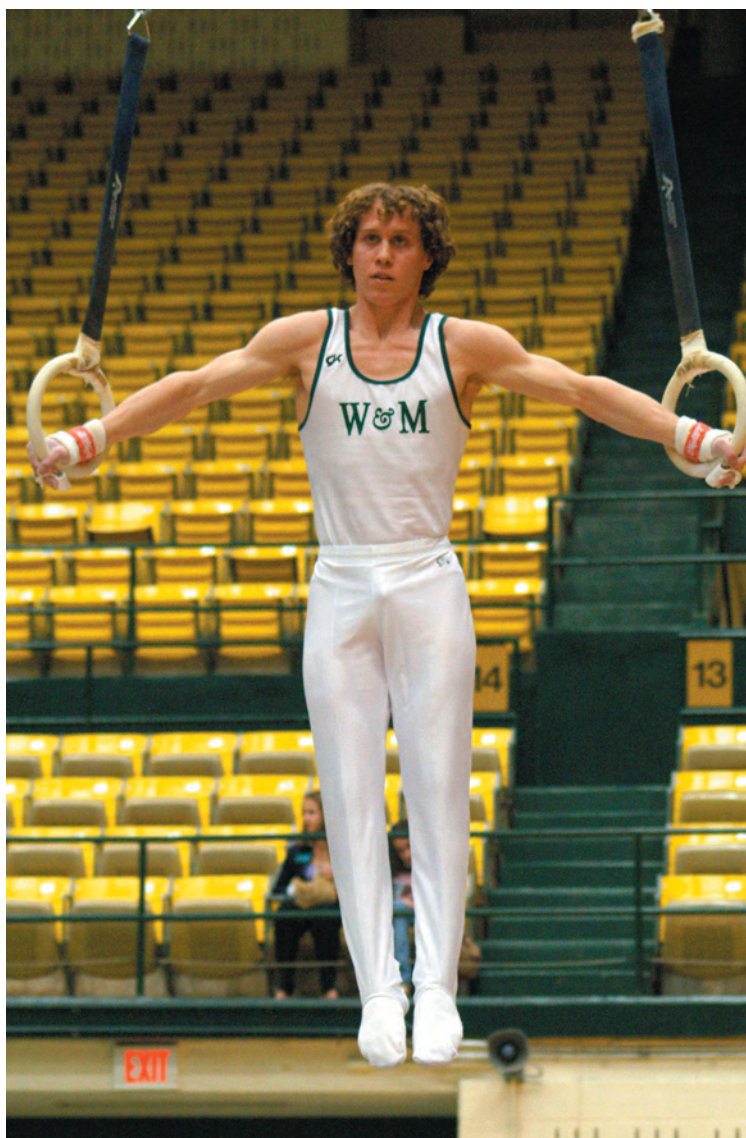
*Men defeat James Madison, Women have season-high score at Hearts Invite*BY KATE TEDESCO  
THE FLAT HAT

As the gymnastics season gets into full swing, both the men's and women's programs are hitting their stride. Competing at home against James Madison University this past weekend, the Tribe men posted their best team score of the season with a 196.15-158.35 victory over the Dukes. The women matched their season-high total with a score of 186.225, but it was not enough to keep up with some of the best teams in the nation as the Tribe finished fifth at the Hearts Invite in Raleigh, N.C.

Besting their previous season-high score by almost six points, the men pulled their record above .500 for the first time this year, improving to 6-5 overall. They also took home the top three spots in all six events of the evening. Sophomore Sloan Crawford won the floor event with a score of 8.70, while fellow sophomore James Prim earned the top score in pommel horse, tying his career-high with an impressive 8.5.

Prim followed up the pommel horse performance with his second career best of the night, a mark of 9.15 on the rings. Freshman Josh Fried earned a career best of his own with a score of 8.2 on the vault, tying for first place in the event with Crawford. Strong efforts on the parallel bars from senior David Ridings, junior Andrew Hunt and freshman Derek Gyga propelled the College to a season-best 32.65 score in the event.

Senior Christina Padilla led the women to a strong showing at the Hearts Invite with a score of 9.675 on the vault and 9.550 on the bars. Junior Tricia Long performed well



JONATHAN SEIDEN • THE FLAT HAT

*Freshman Derek Gyga performs an iron cross Feb. 17 against JMU.*

in all four of her events, as she paced the Tribe with scores of 9.575 on the beam and a season-best 9.625 mark on the floor event. Long's total score of 37.775 led the Tribe in the all-around. Freshman Ali Medeiros continued her strong rookie season as she posted the team's second-best scores in both the vault and bars. Sophomore Becca Bacharach turned

in a career-best score of 9.525 on the floor, and was second on the team with a 9.3 on the beam. Battling back from a preseason injury, senior Jess Randall posted a strong score of 9.275 on the beam.

The women's fifth-place finish can be attributed to the strength of

See **GYMNASTICS** page 11

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